shigurui

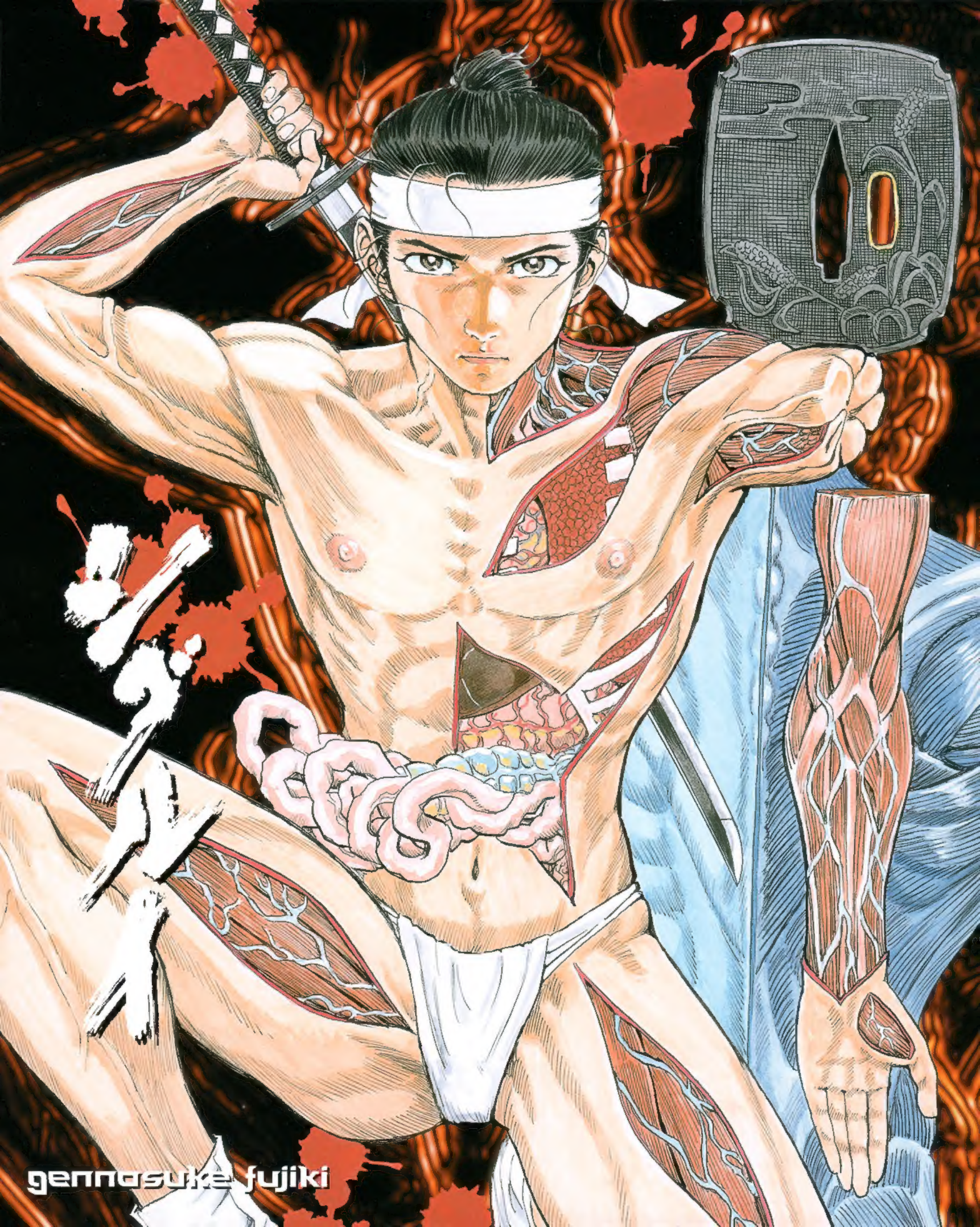
原作 南條範夫
『駿河城御前試合』より
漫画 山口貴由

2

Champion
RED Comics
RED

TRANSLATION
NOMAD SOUL
LETTERING
SHOUNEN ARISU
PROOFREADING
THEDAVEMC

TAKAYUKI
YAMAGUCHI


gennosuke fujiki

Champion
RED Comics
RED

しぐるい

原作 南條範夫
漫画 山口貴由

shigurui 2

STORY: NORIO NANJÔ
ART: TAKAYUKI YAMAGUCHI

Table of Contents

Scene Six
Kama'itachi
~ 3 ~

Scene Seven
Children's Song
~ 39 ~

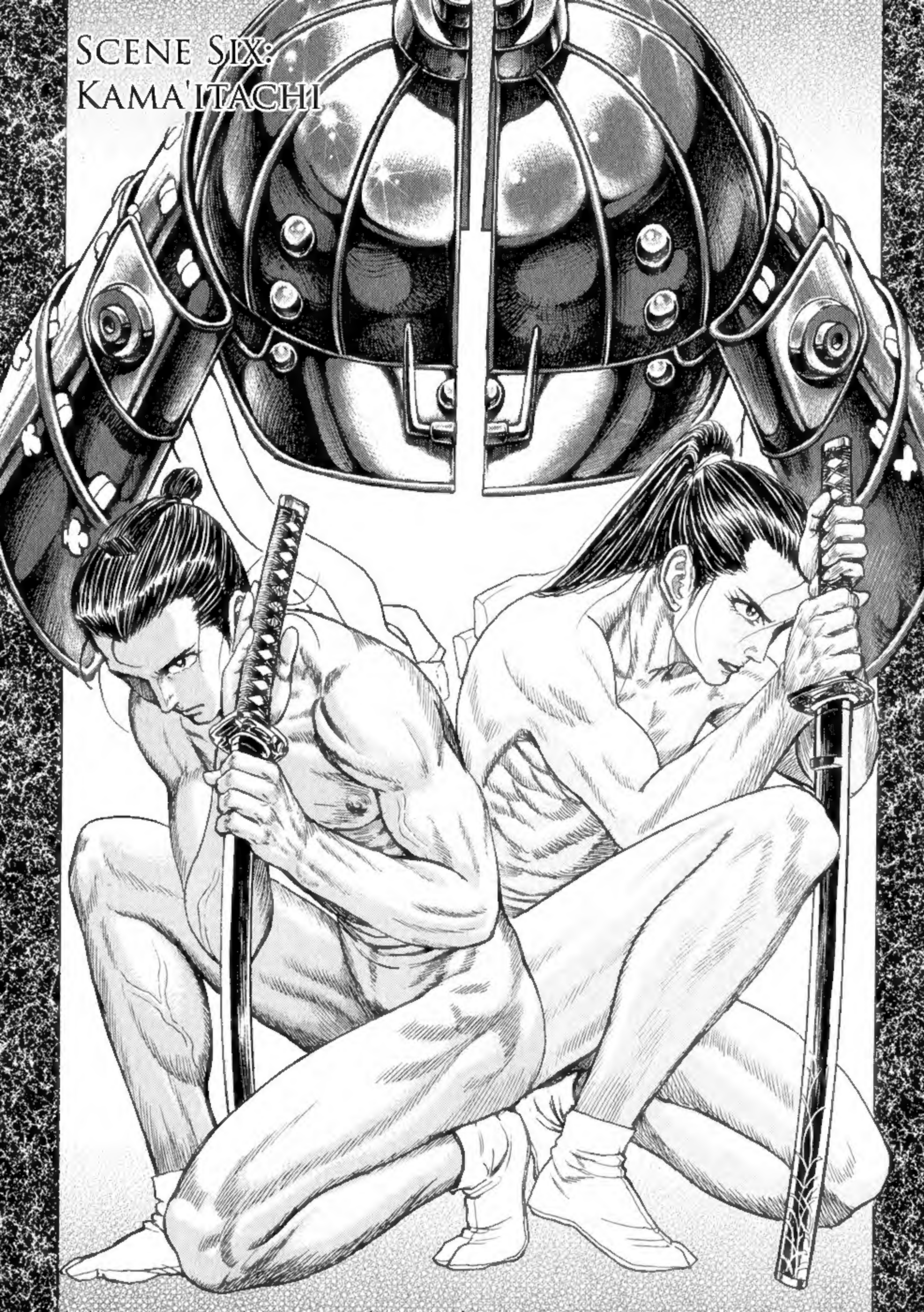
Scene Eight
Beast
~ 77 ~

Scene Nine
Marionettes
~ 113 ~

Scene Ten
Hairpin
~ 149 ~

This is a work of fiction.
All resemblance to actual persons or events is purely coincidental.

Scene Six:
Kama'itachi



Kakegawa

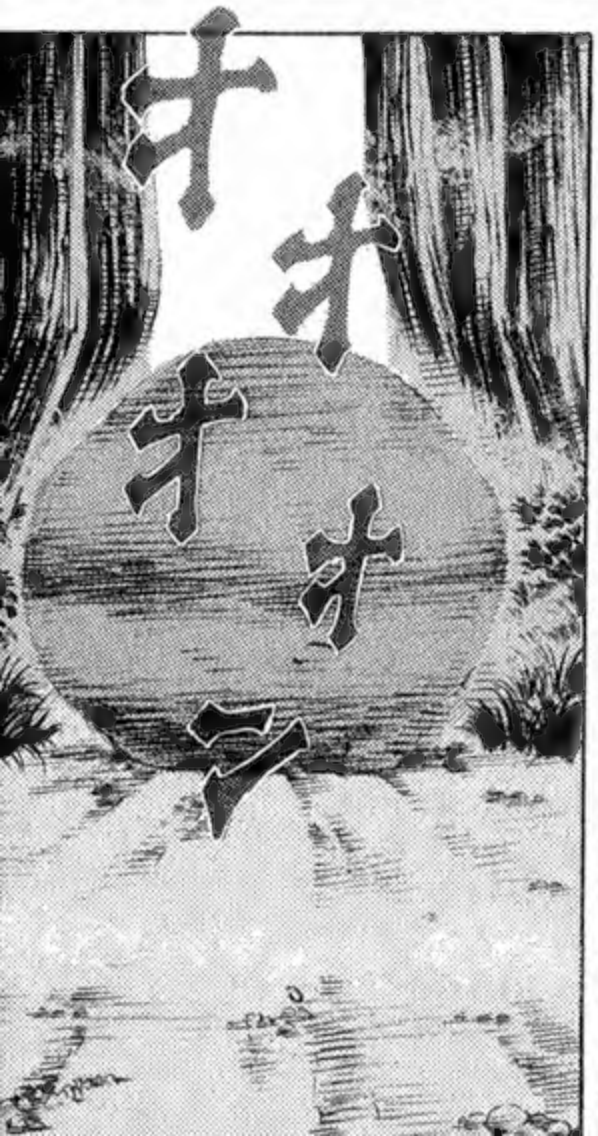
Sayo-no-Nakayama Pass

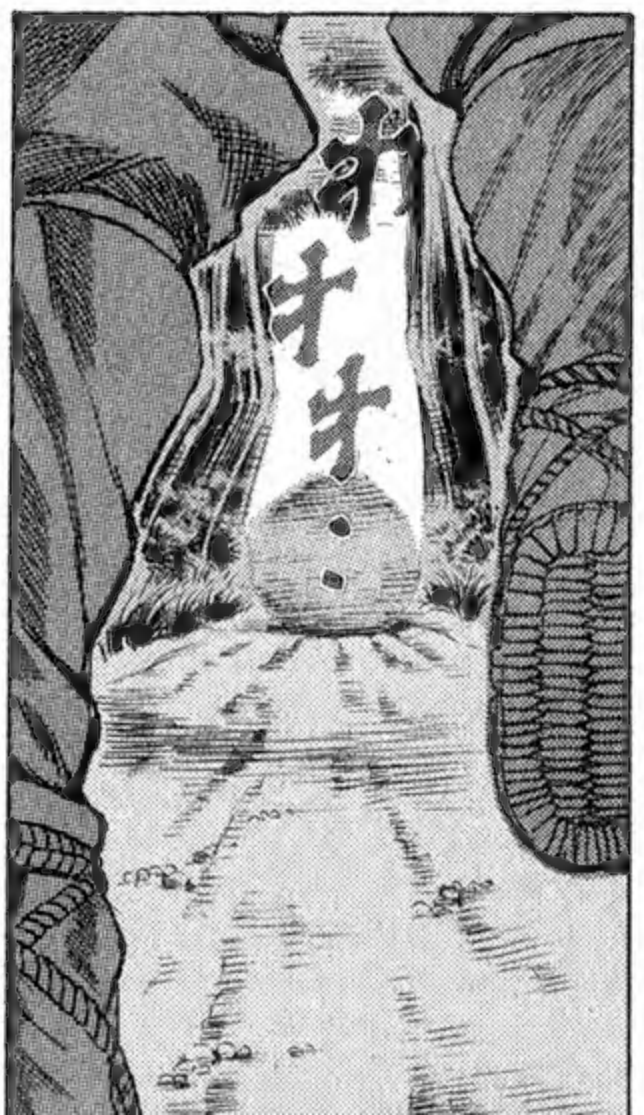
The hour of the Rabbit[1]

1: 5-7 a.m.

SAYO STEMMED FROM "SAI" WHICH MEANT "TO BLOCK"...

...WHILE NAKAYAMA SIGNIFIED "BOUNDARY."





HALFWAY UP THE HILL FROM KUTSUKAKE[1] THERE WAS A BIG BOULDER.

REVERED AS A "BOUNDARY GOD"...

...IT WAS SUPPOSED TO WARD OFF EVIL SPIRITS AND PROTECT TRAVELERS.

1: A post town on the Nakasendo route. It is located in the present-day town of Karuizawa, in Nagano Prefecture.

However, there was once a pregnant woman named O-Ishi who, while returning from a day of work in Kikukawa...

...was suddenly overcome with intense stomach pain as she passed near the boulder.

A passing samurai discovered her...

...and came to her aid.

Just then a fierce gust of wind swept through the trees...

...and an evil spirit called a kama'itachi...

...took over the samurai's body.

Ever since that day, sounds like a woman moaning can be heard emanating from the boulder each night.

From "Tales and Legends of the Crying Stone"

AND YET, THE REASON FUJIKI GENNOSUKE AND IRAKO SEIGEN WERE HOLDING A MOMENT OF SI-LENCE BEFORE THE "CRYING STONE"...

UMPF!

KADOYA

THAT DAY, ONCE AGAIN, THE FUNAKI BROTHERS...

...CAME AT EXACTLY THE SAME MOMENT.

BUT WHO WOULD HAVE DARED TO REBUKE THEM?

...were left with countless bruises. Some of them even suffered broken bones.

The male prostitutes who served them...

...WERE KNOWN AS THE MIGHTIEST SWORDSMEN OF ALL NISSAKA.

AFTER ALL, THESE TWINS, BOTH CAPABLE OF CUTTING A WARRIOR'S HELMET IN MID-AIR...

YOU'RE RIGHT. WE NEED A PEACE MAKER WHO WILL MAKE US BOTH

HIS BROTHER
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME WE BOTH GOT MARRIED AND SET OUR FATHER AT EASE?

WHA HAA!
WHA HA!

WHO ARE YOU?!

DON'T YOU KNOW WE'RE THE BROTHERS KAZUMA AND HYOMA OF THE FUNAKI DOJO?!

IF YOU WANT TO HAVE A MATCH, THE SAMURAI'S CODE DICTATES...

...THAT YOU SHOULD CONTACT YOUR OPPONENT AND ARRANGE A TIME AND PLACE IN ADVANCE!

WE ARE NOT SAMURAI!

WE ARE THE KAMAITACHI OF NAKAYAMA PASS!

The Funaki brothers' swords, called Nami'oyogi Kanemitsu, were the sharpest of their kind.

The twins stance, back to back with their swords held over their heads...

...gave their opponents the impression of facing a Deva King wielding two swords.

They usually stand in pairs at temple gates.

FUCK!

I must...
I must dodge his attack!

THE TWINS' TECHNIQUE, WHICH WAS TO RAISE THEIR SWORDS HIGH OVER THEIR HEADS BEFORE BRINGING THEM DOWN ON THEIR OPPONENTS WITH ALL FORCE...

...WAS AS SIMPLE AS IT WAS POWERFUL. TO BE WITHIN STRIKING RANGE WE ANT CERTAIN ITS A "K

STUDENTS OF THE KOGAN SCHOOL!

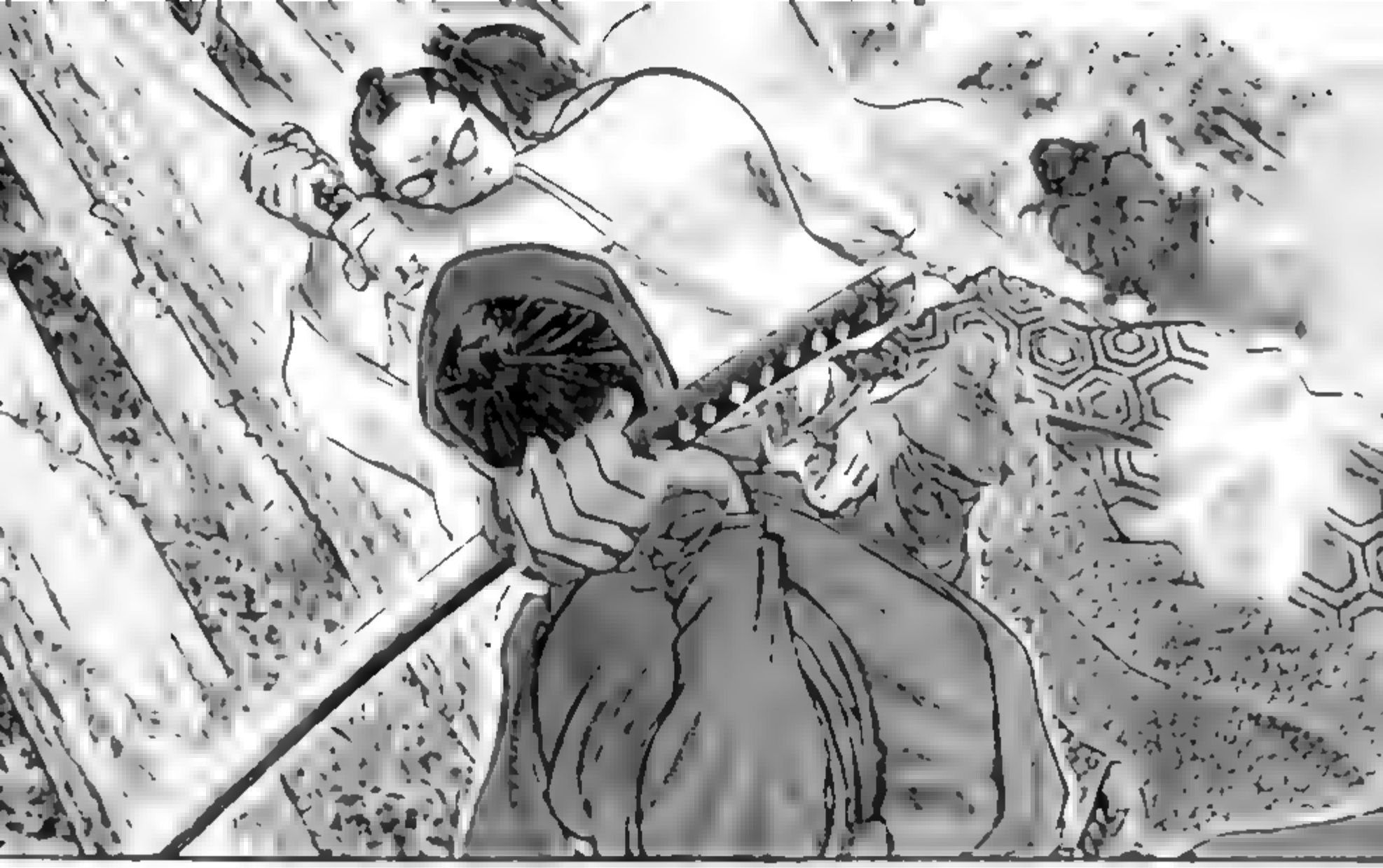
COME ON! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

THE SUN'S RISING.

ARE YOU SCARED, KAMAITACHI?

OR SHOULD I SAY...

FUJIKI
FROM KA-
KEGAWA.



WHAT COULD HE POSSIBLY DO AT THIS DISTANCE?
TOO FAR!

HE'S TOO FAR AWAY!

Whenever someone from the Kogan school raises his sword over his shoulder, you have to be extra careful!

!

BROTHER ..?

AT THIS DIS-TANCE ...

...YOU WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO GIVE ME A SCRATCH!

scratch

THE KOGAN SCHOOL HAD A SPECIAL MOVE CALLED NAGARE!

AFTER LAUNCHING AN ATTACK FROM A SEEMINGLY LARGE DISTANCE...

GENNOSUKE LET HIS RIGHT HAND_

SLIDE FROM ITS ORIGINAL POSITION BENEATH THE GUARD

DOWN TO THE END OF THE MIST.

THEREBY INCREASING THE SWORD'S EFFECTIVE RANGE.

BEYOND EXPECTATION.

A PRECISE CONTROL OF GRIP STRENGTH WAS NEEDED FOR THIS TECHNIQUE.

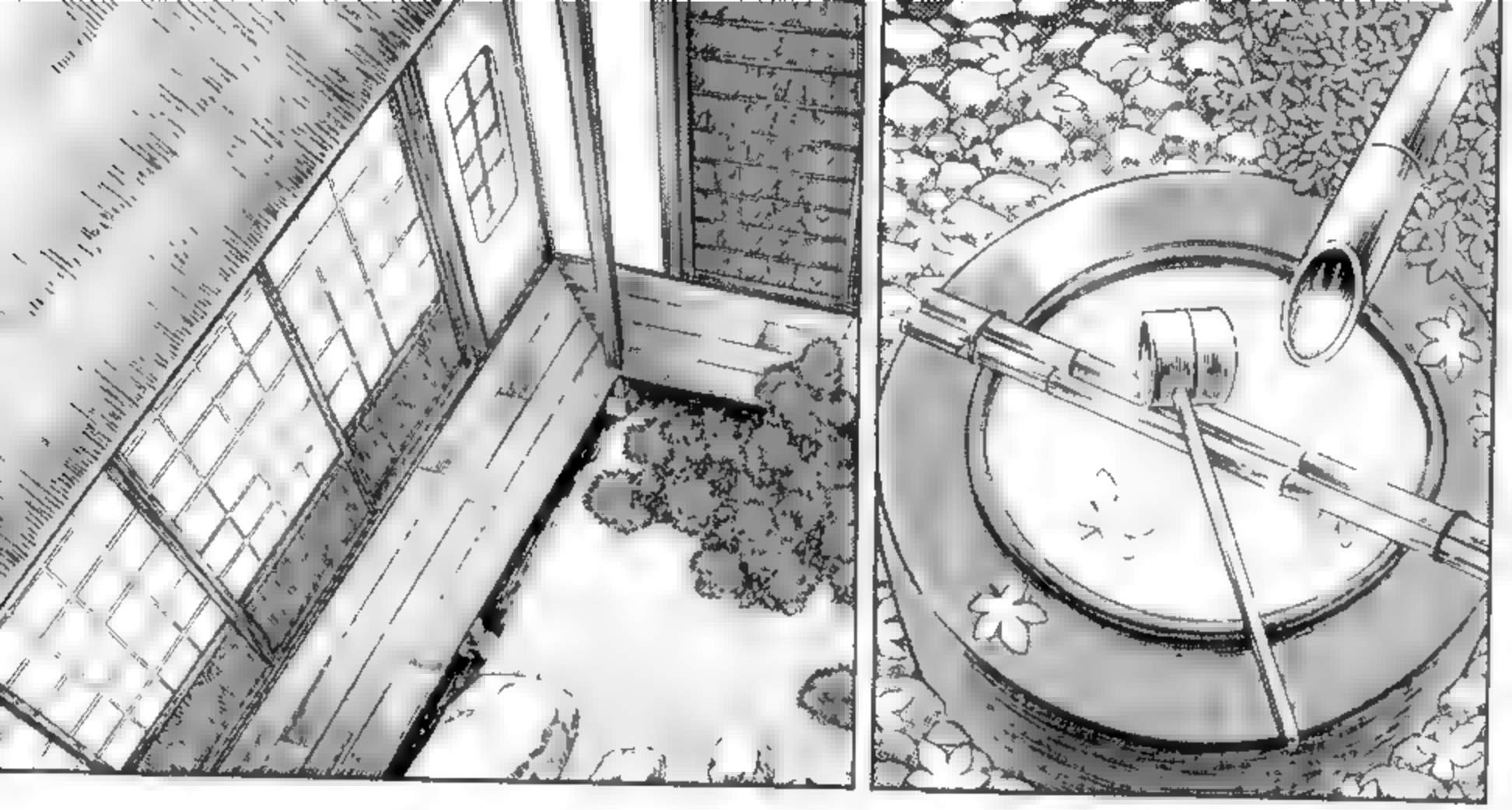
WITHOUT IT, THE PERFORMER RISKED HAVING HIS SWORD FLY OUT OF HIS HAND

NAGARE WAS A BETTER GUARDED SECRET THAN THE KOGAN SCHOOL'S OWN TEACHER'S SCROLL"-

-AND IT WAS FORBIDDEN TO PRACTICE IT IN THE DOJO.

IRAKO...

RINSE IT OUT.



JAVE ACCOMPLISHED THEIR TASK.

BOTH FUJIKI AND IRAKO.

I.

I KILL.

Scene Seven:
Children's Song

She's so cruel!

The tiger's concubine.

There was a little white dog, woof, woof woof...

Iku gave him a treat...

...and his fur turned red!

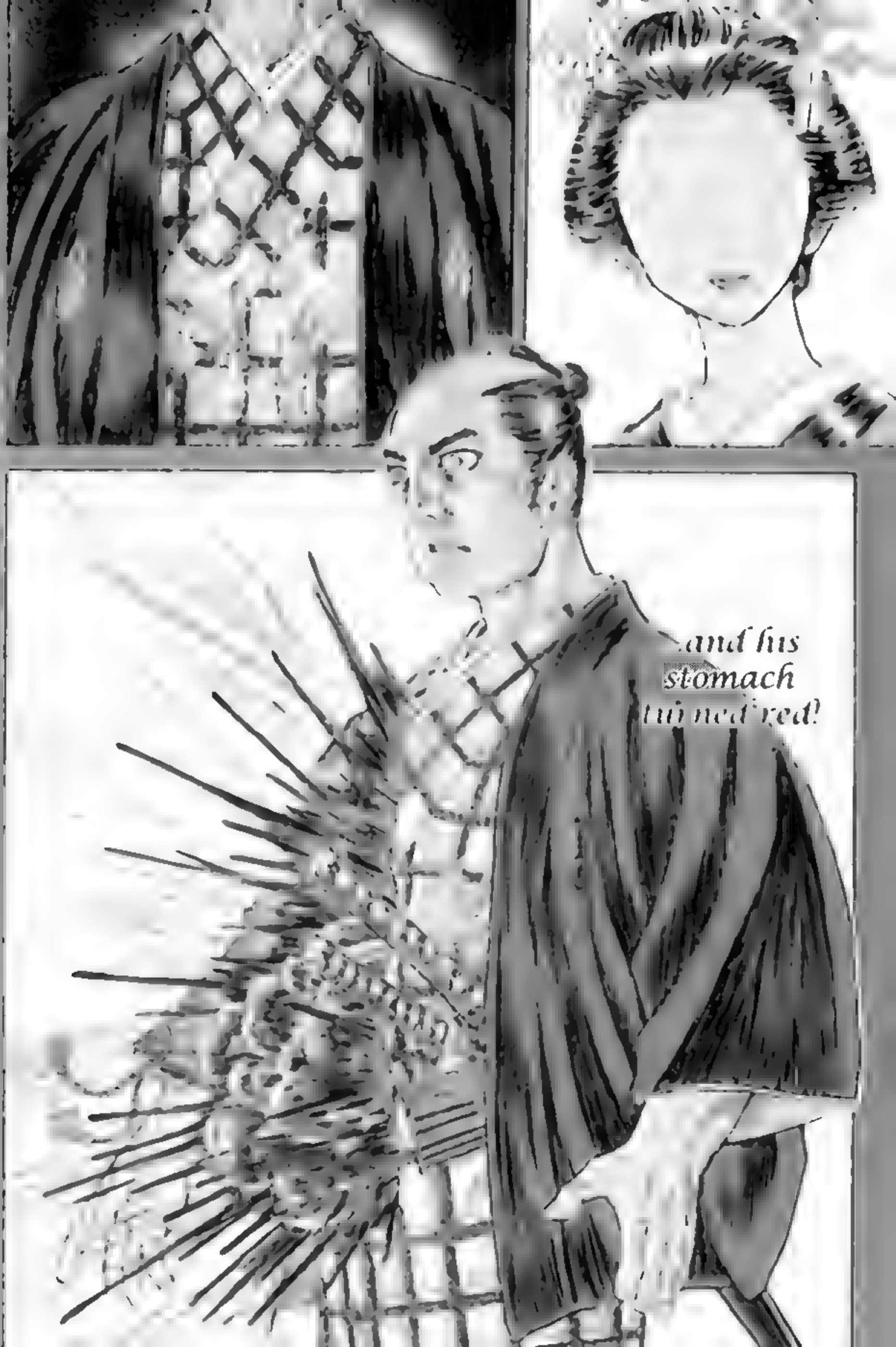
She's so cruel! She's so cruel!

I'll pull
out his

...and his chest turned red!

She's so cruel! She's so cruel!

The magistrate

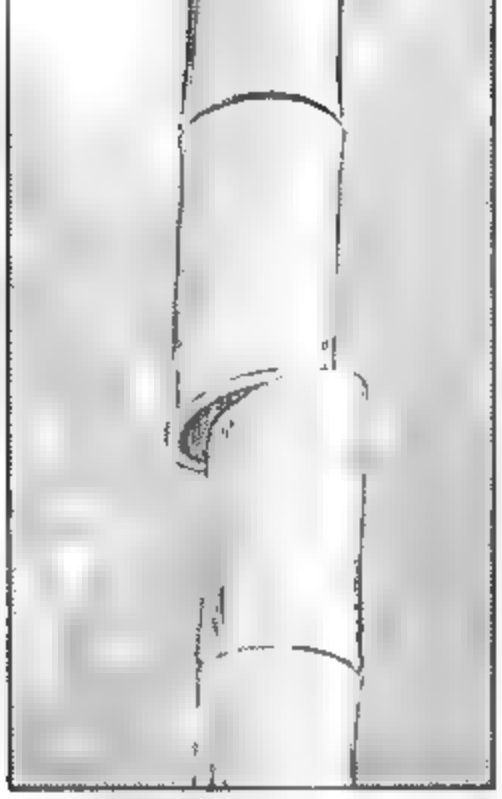

...and his
stomach
turned red!

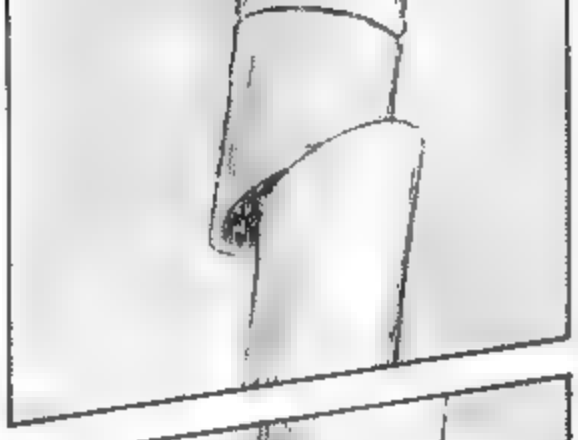
The tiger's concubine.

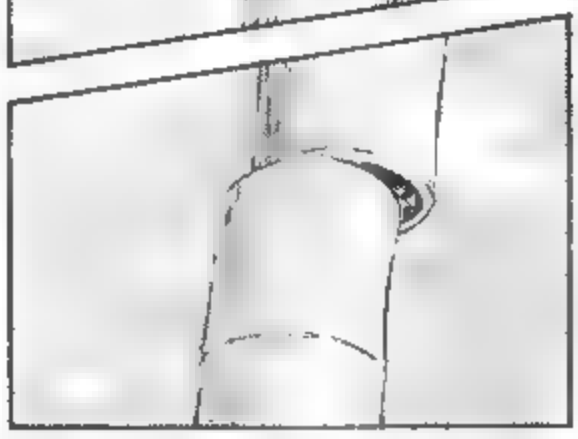
Here comes Iku!

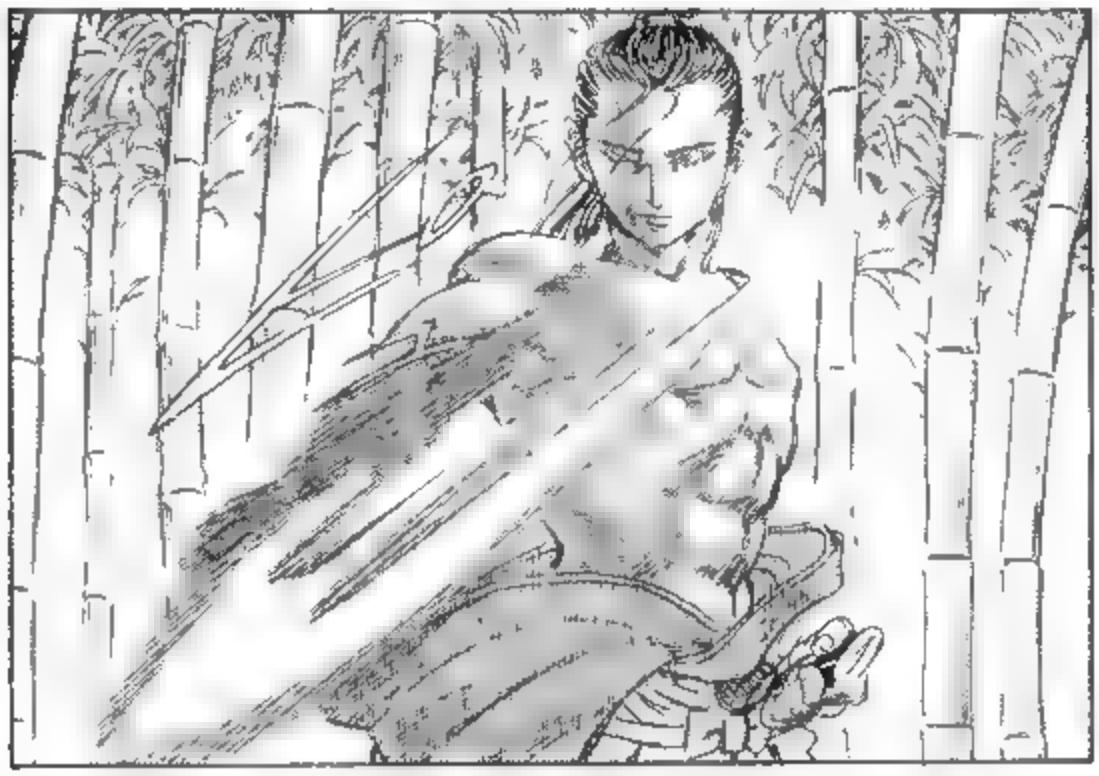
Nwagatake

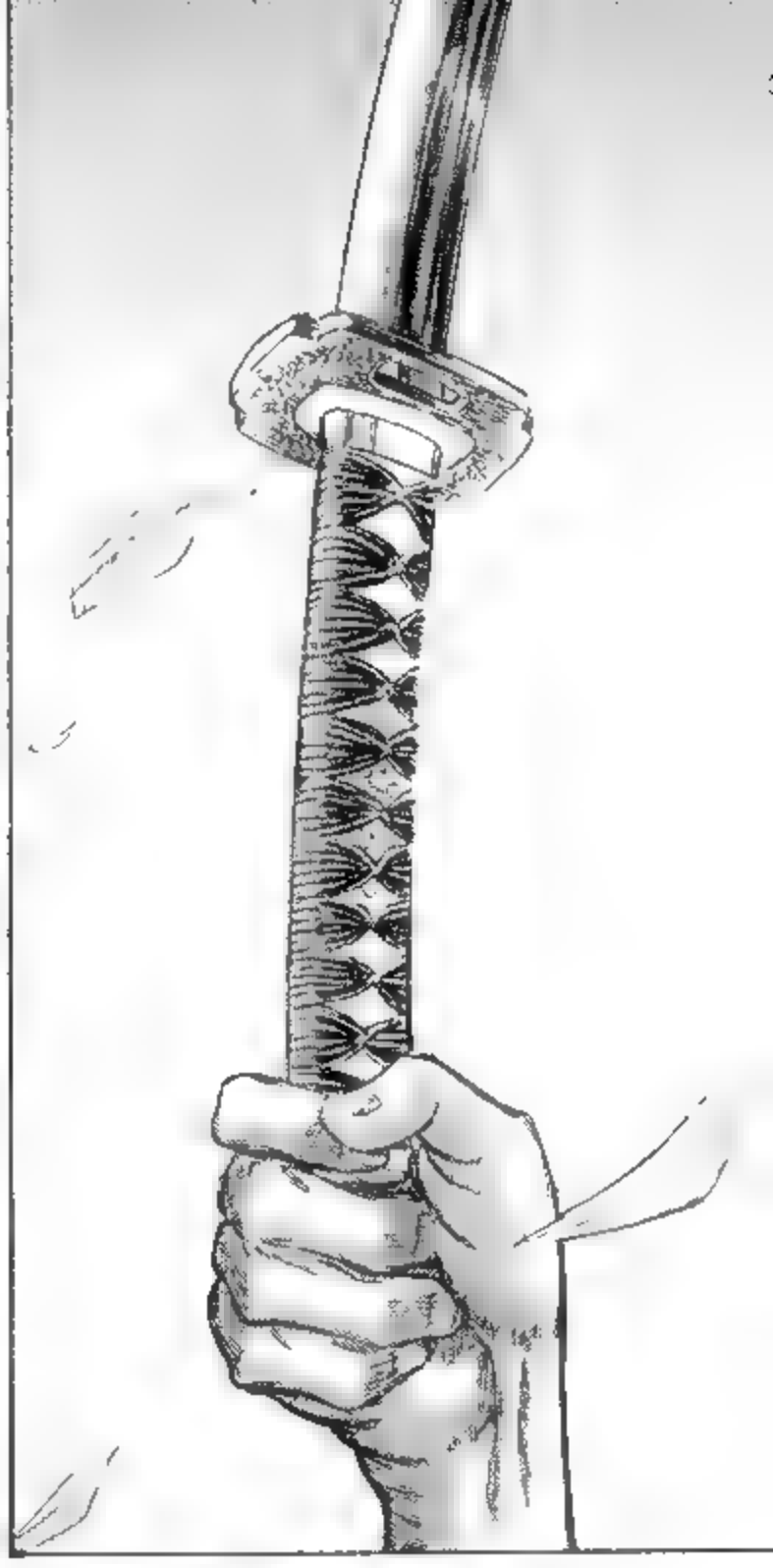
Matsuba Falls

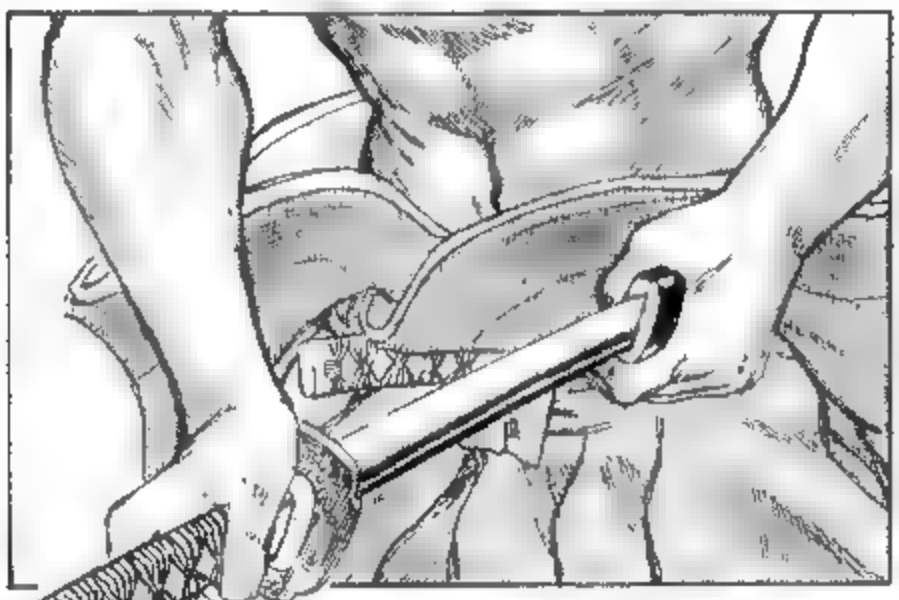






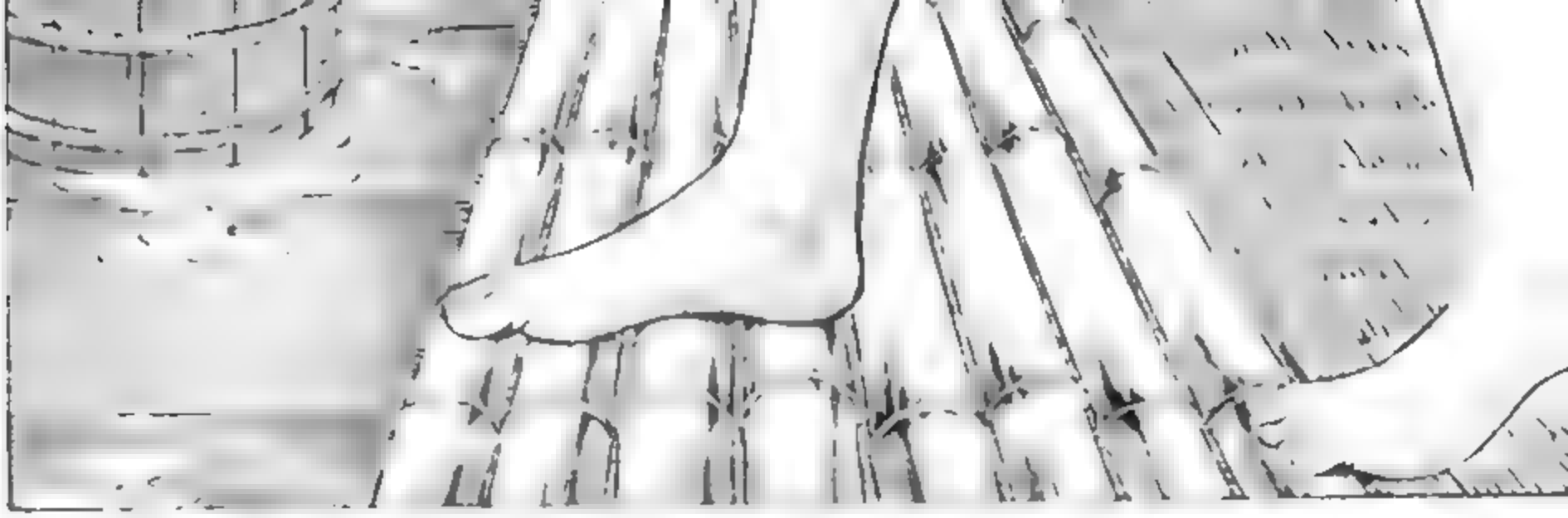


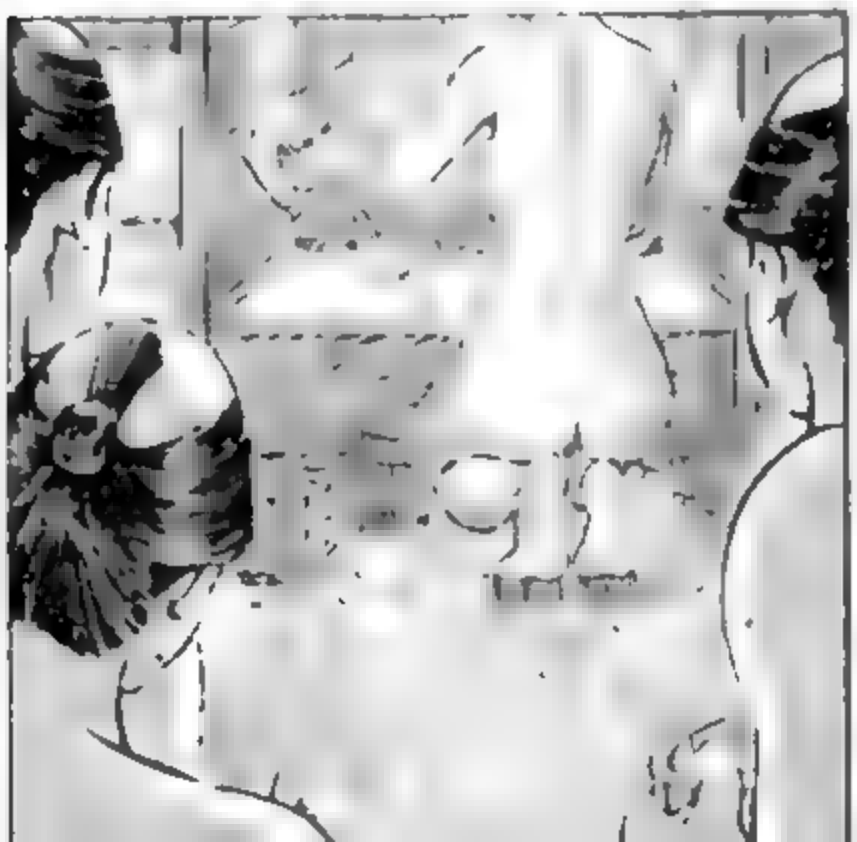


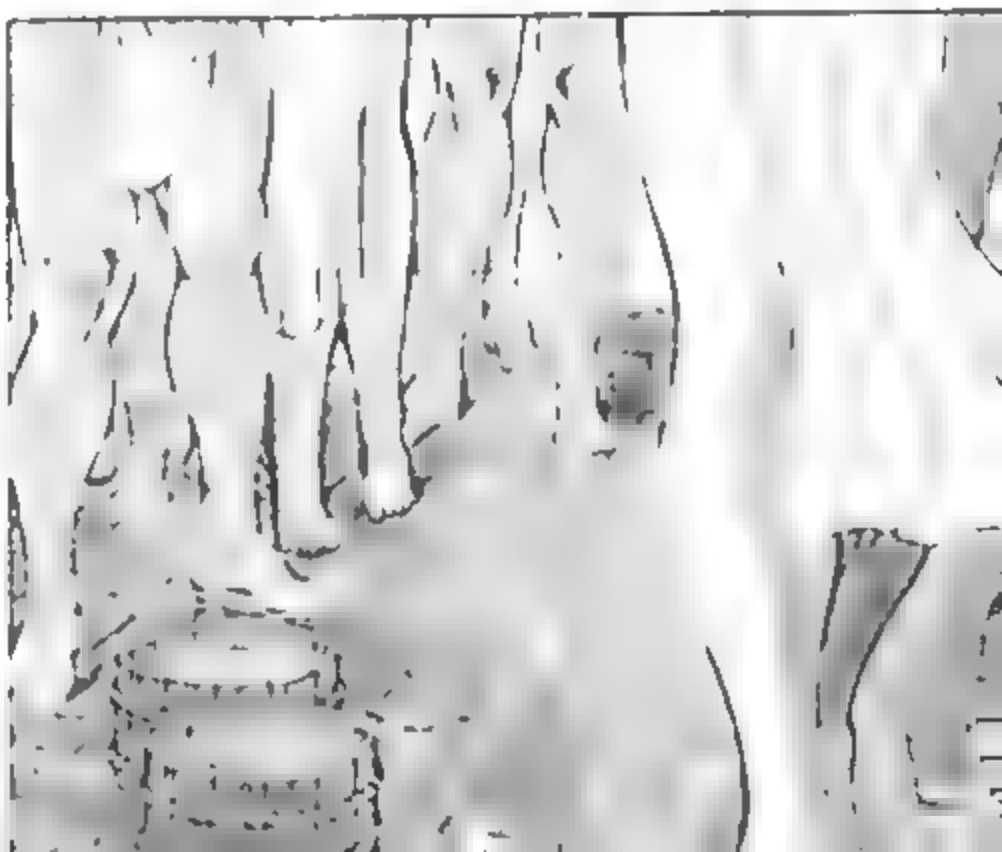


THEREFORE STRICTLY FORBIDDEN FOR EVEN THE WEALTHIEST MERCHANTS TO OWN A WATER HEATER

There they sat.
heads against scrota.
buttocks on foreheads.
back to back on a
pile of legs tangled
up together.

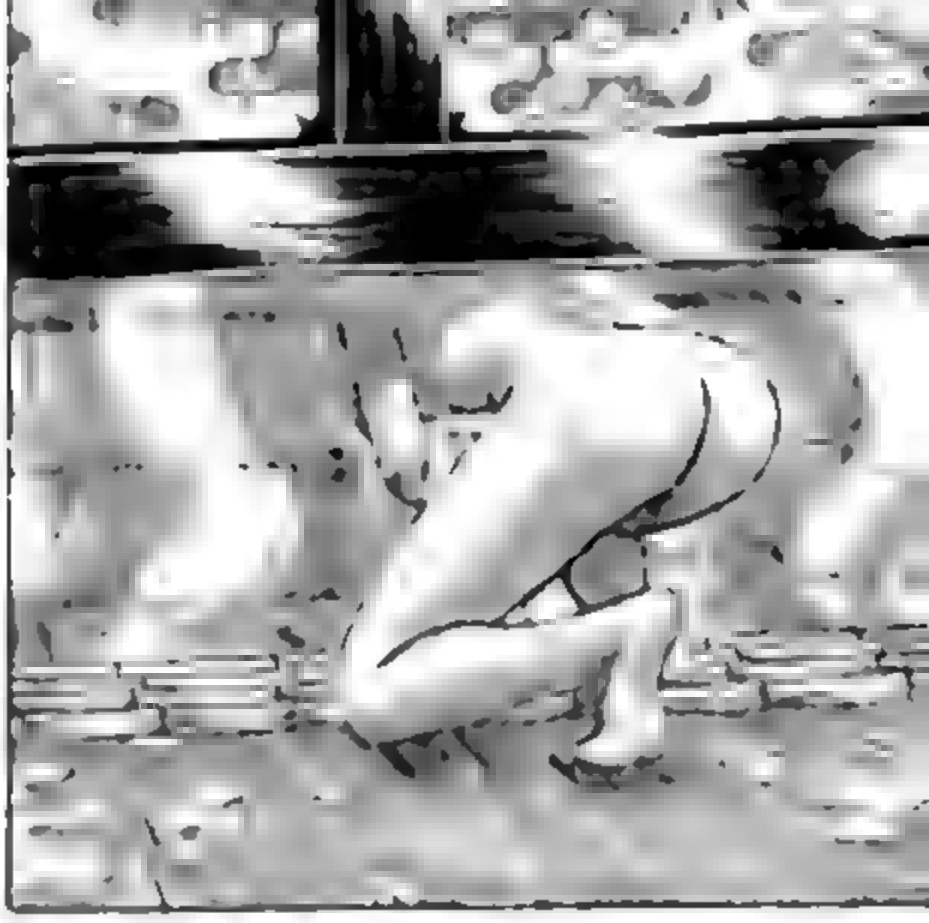






Keep away from him and you won't be cursed!

...THE CONCUBINE OF NOBI'S UNSURPASSED SWORD MASTER IWAMOTO KOGAN...



AREN'T YOU AFRAID OF DYING?

ALL OF THOSE WHO GET TOO CLOSE TO ME...

YOU MUST HAVE HEARD THE SONG. KNOW THAT IT DOES NOT LIE...

IN WHAT WAY CAN SITTING IN A BATH LEAD TO MY DEATH?

MY LADY, THERE IS SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW...

Master Iwamoto's student!

It's Irako Seigen!

SIR
KNOW
THAT I AM
CURSED

A backstreet
in Togiyacho

OF
EXCESSIVE
CRAVING
TO ME ARE
BOTH DEAD
AS A
RESULT

THE TWO
MEN WHO
HAD THE
HIGHEST
VALUE

BUT THANKFULLY, DESPITE BEING BOUND TO THIS TERRIBLE FATE...

...MASTER IWAMOTO GRANTS ME THE HONOR OF HIS FAVOR.

The "Nanacho Nenbutsu"

MY LADY, HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF THE "NANACHO NENBUTSU"?

Third year of the Genna era (1618)

Kakegawa Castle

I PRESENT TO YOU...

...A SWORD OFFERED TO US BY LORD TOKUGAWA YORINOBU[1].

ANDO NAOTSUGU, LORD OF KAKEGAWA CASTLE

1· (1602-1671) - Tenth son of Tokugawa Ieyasu.

...who was in the middle of reciting a nenbutsu*. He continued walking without a single drop of blood spilling from his body.

wanted to test the sword and slashed a Buddhist monk

It is said that one day a great sword-man named Tomoya Kagahara, governor of Tsushima who was in service to the family of the Shogun ..

They say his wound only opened...

...after he had walked a further seven cho.

1: An archaic unit of length. One cho equals 109 meters [illegible] feet. Nana means "seven" in Japanese, hence the name [illegible]

DO YOU BELIEVE THIS STORY TO BE TRUE?

WHAT DO YOU THINK, IWAMOTO?

I CANNOT SAY WITHOUT VERIFYING IT.

MM-MM!

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR A HUMAN BEING TO BE ABLE TO WALK SEVEN CHO AFTER RECEIVING A MORTAL SWORD WOUND.

HOW-EVER...

...IT IS EVEN MORE IMPOSSIBLE FOR A SAMURAI TO FLATLY SAY "NO" TO HIS LORD.

MMM...

HM-MM!

HAAA!

HAAA!

Hmm

AH...

...A MYTH!

SO IN THE END THE STORY WAS NOTHING BUT...

MY LORD, THIS IS MORE THAN JUST AN "EXCELLENT BLADE"...

OR PERHAPS YOU'VE WEAKENED WITH AGE, IWAMOTO?

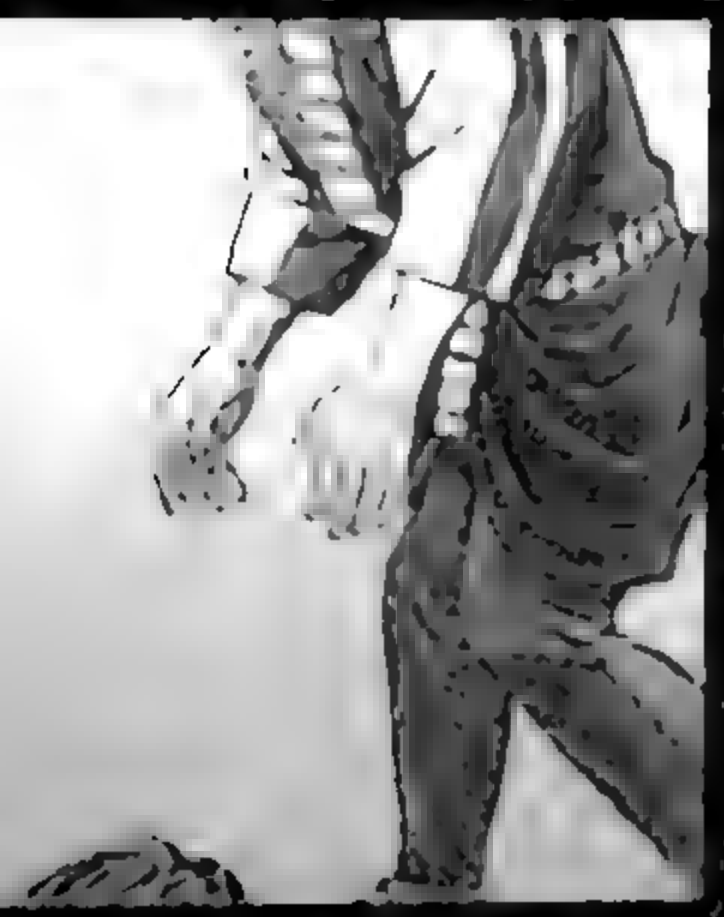
THIS SWORD IS... NOT FROM THIS WORLD.

KEEP IT CLOSE AT HAND AND YOU WILL SURELY...

...BRING CALAMITY UPON YOUR HOUSE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN ?WHO?

MY LORD



YOU WILL UNDERSTAND SOON ENOUGH

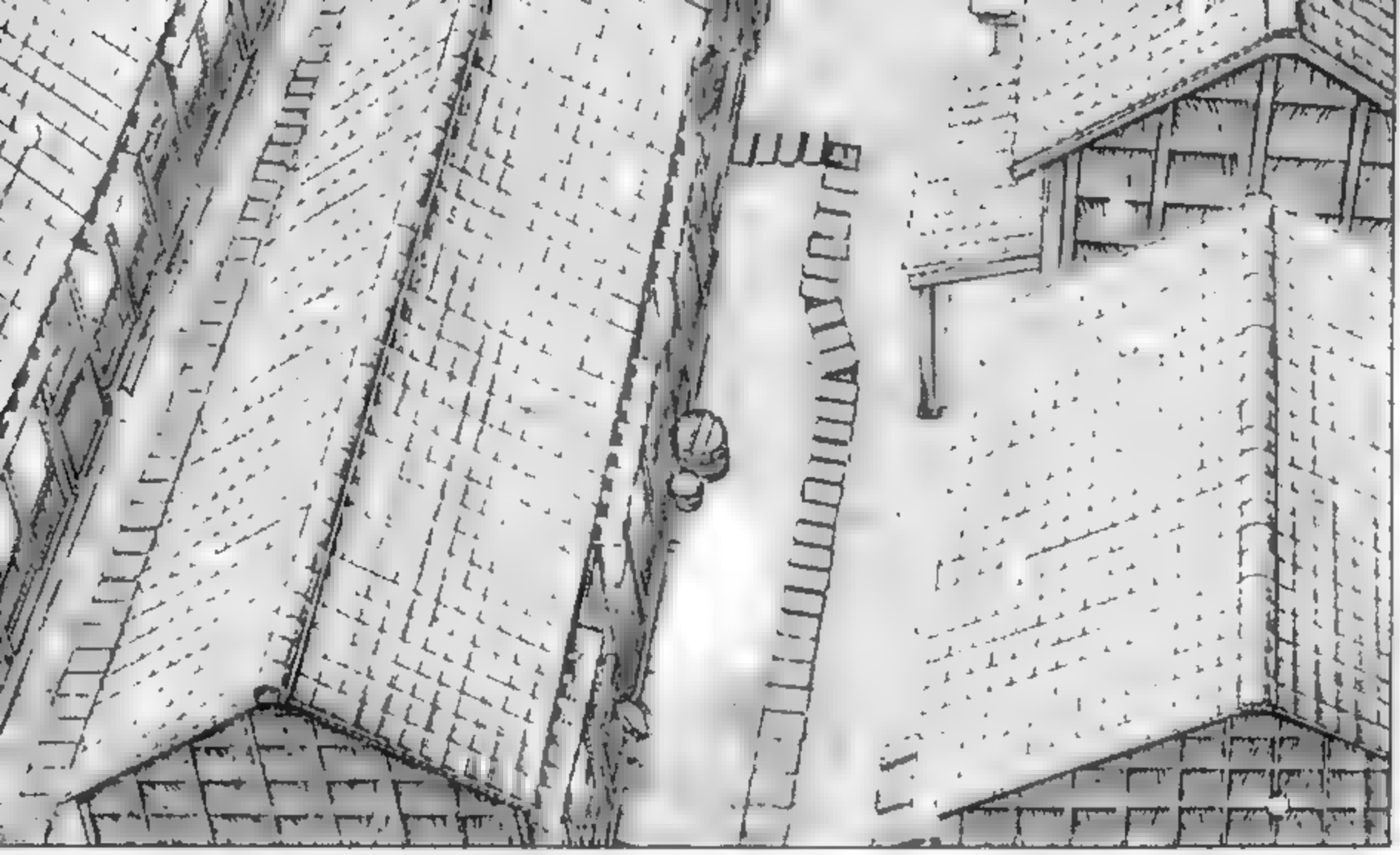
THE MAN FELT HIS WAIST
BECOME HEAVIER AND HEAVIER.
JUDGING FROM THE COLOR OF THE LIQUID, HE KNEW IT COULD NOT BE INCON-TINENCE.

THE HEART OF OKABE HEIBE IMMEDIATELY STOPPED BEATING.

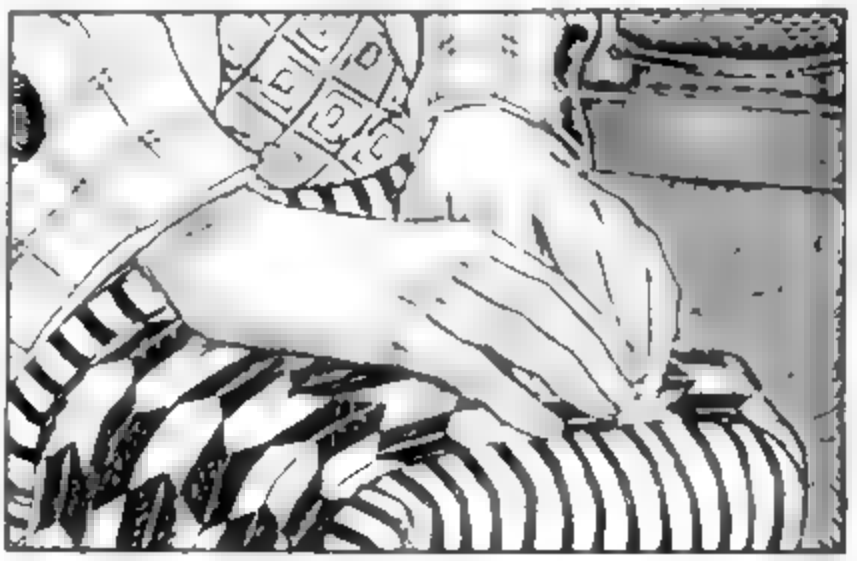
FOR WE ARE SMALL AND FRAGILE CREATU-RES...

...AND FEAR ALONE IS ENOUGH TO CAUSE THE DEATH OF A MAN.

OHH!



SO YOU MEAN TO SAY...



I AM HIS STUDENT I MUST REFRAIN FROM SPEAKING FURTHER.

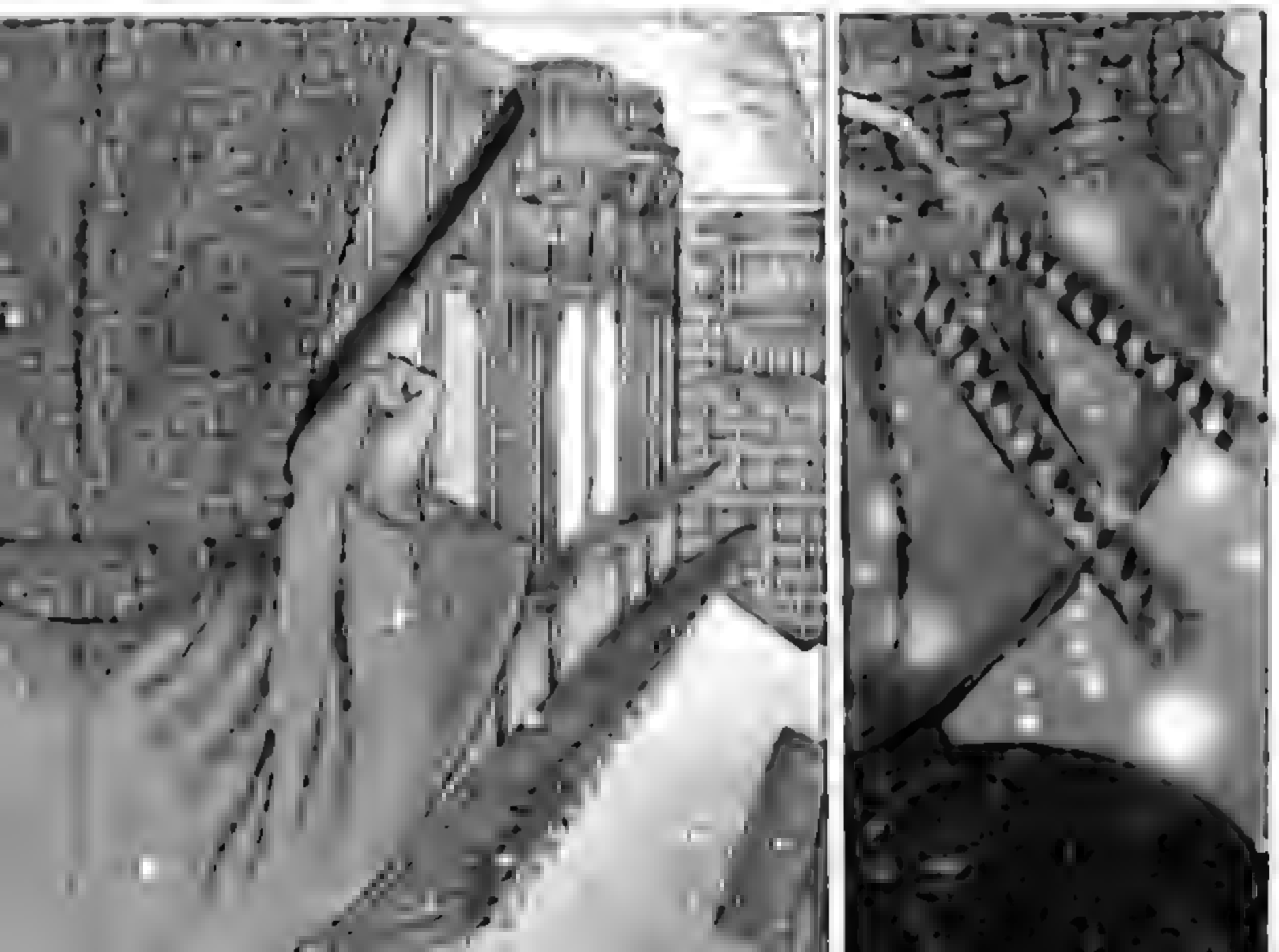
...IT WAS MASTER IWA-MOTO WHO KILLED...
...BOTH OF MY FIANCES?!

.....

MY LADY, THE REASON I TOLD YOU ALL OF THIS WAS SIMPLY SO YOU COULD REALIZE THAT...

...YOU ARE A PERFECTLY NORMAL WOMAN!

THE CURSE ATTRIBUTED TO YOU IN THE SONG IS NOTHING BUT A COMPLETE FABRICATION.



Chapter Eight
Beast

SHUKUSAWA

IRAKO,

OR FUJIKI AS AME-DONO'S BETROTHED

SENSEI IS THINKING OF APPOINTING EITHER YOU

LET ME GIVE YOU ONE PIECE OF ADVICE.

TO THINK THAT I COULD BECOME THE HEIR OF KOGAN-RYUU ..

IT IS AN HONOR FAR ABOVE MY STATION.

DO NOT PERSIST IN VISITING THE MISTRESS'S ABODE IN TOGIYA-CHOU.

I FOLLOWED YOU.

FROM THE PUBLIC BATHS ...

WHAT? I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE

AND AS FOR THE TIMES AFTER THAT,

I MERELY ESCORTED THE MISTRESS TO HER RESIDENCE, AS SHE WAS NOT FEELING WELL.

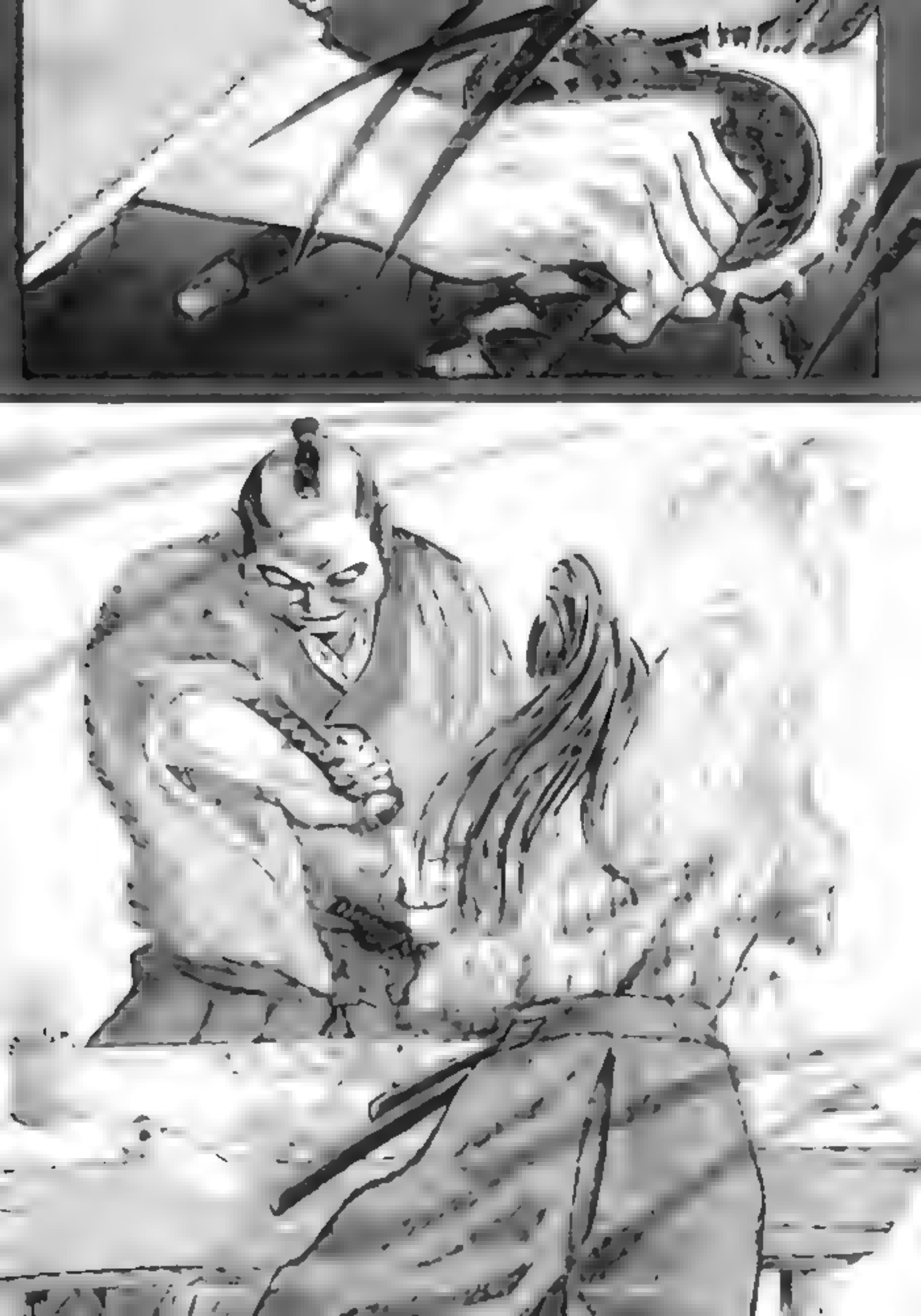
I WAS MERELY VISITING IN ORDER TO TAKE CARE OF THE MICE IN THE CEILING,

WHICH THE MISTRESS HAD PROFESSED TO BEING MOST FRIGHTENED OF.

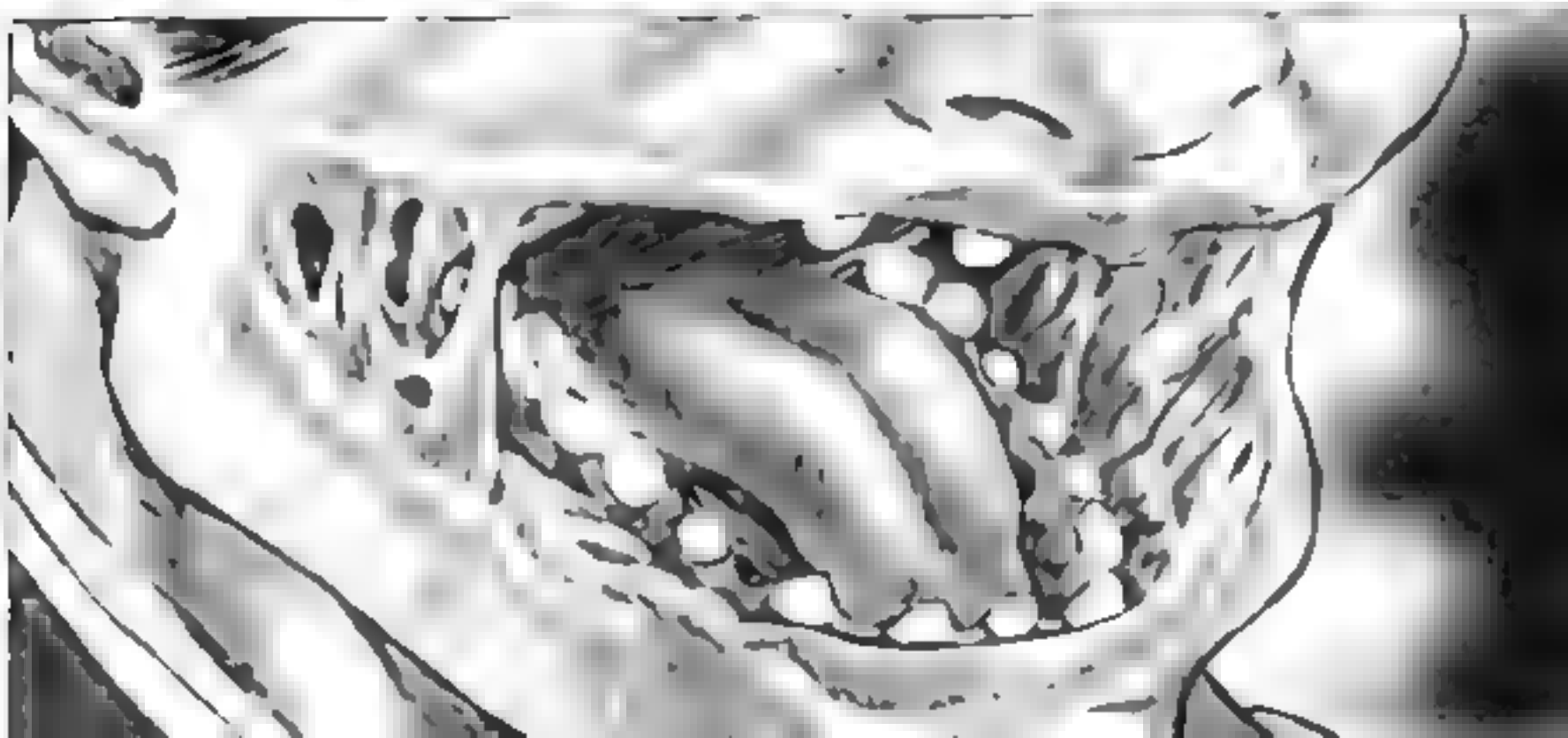
Stop lying

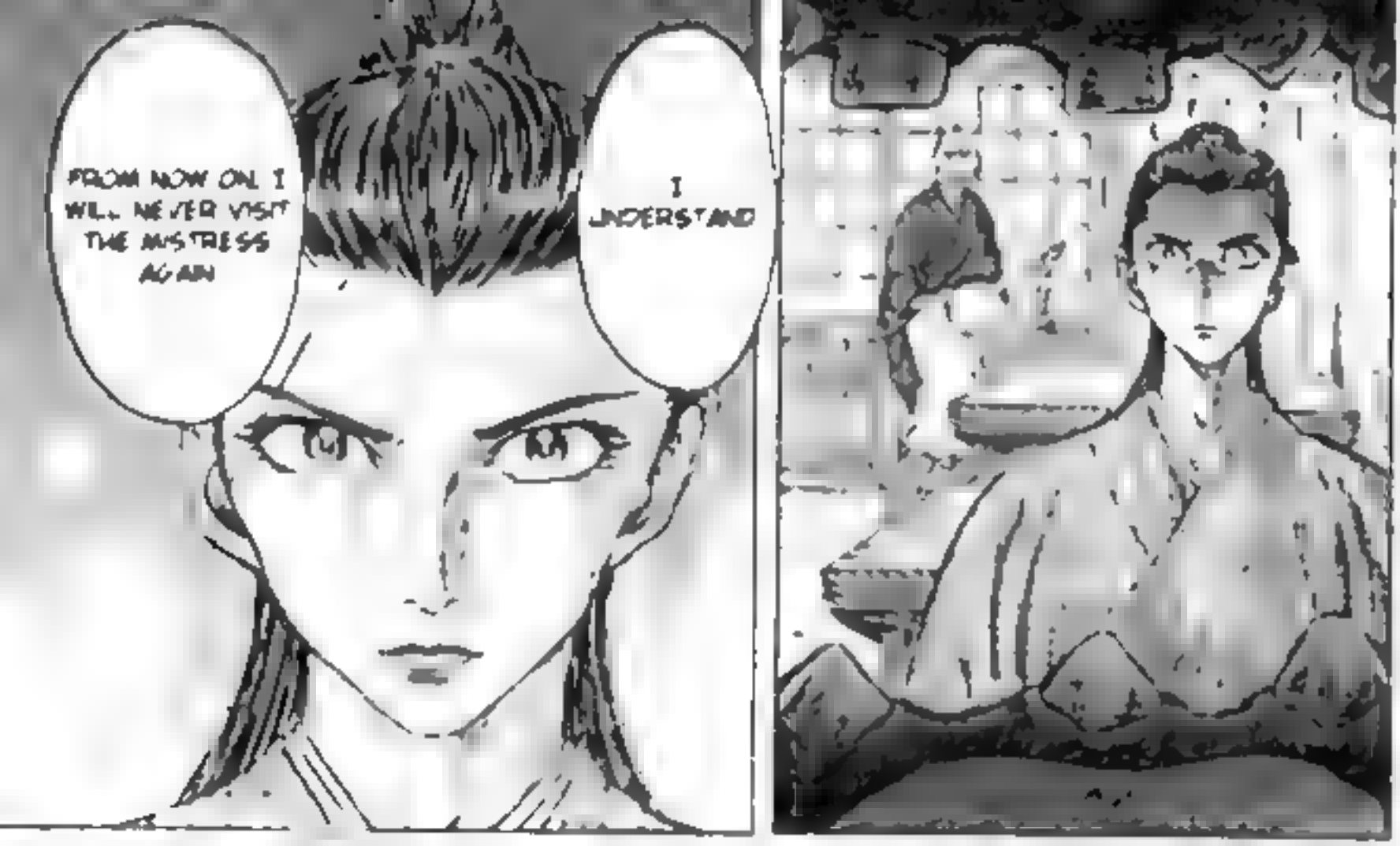
I DID NOT DO ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS

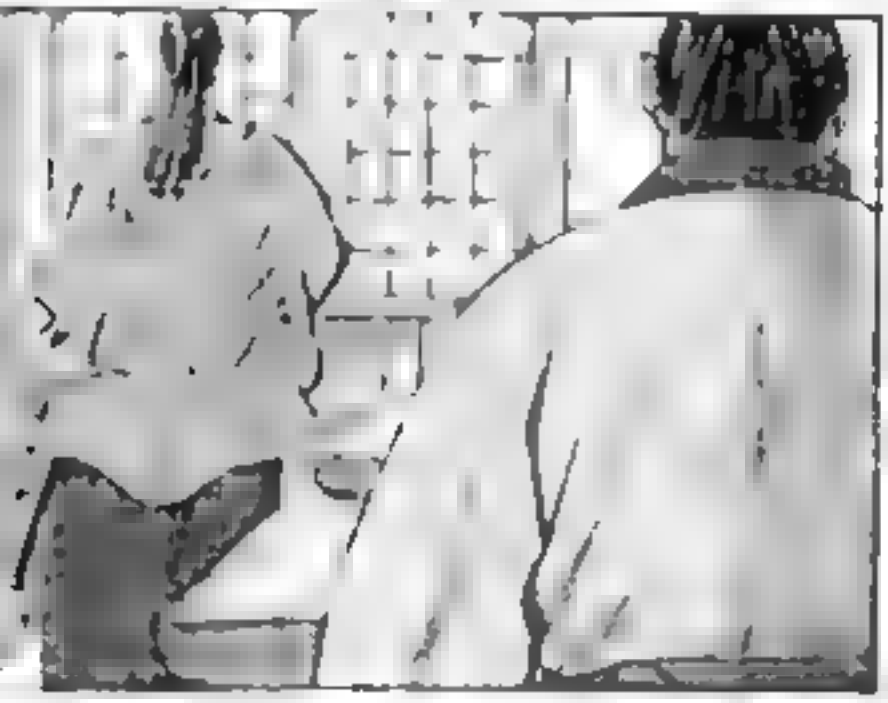
ス

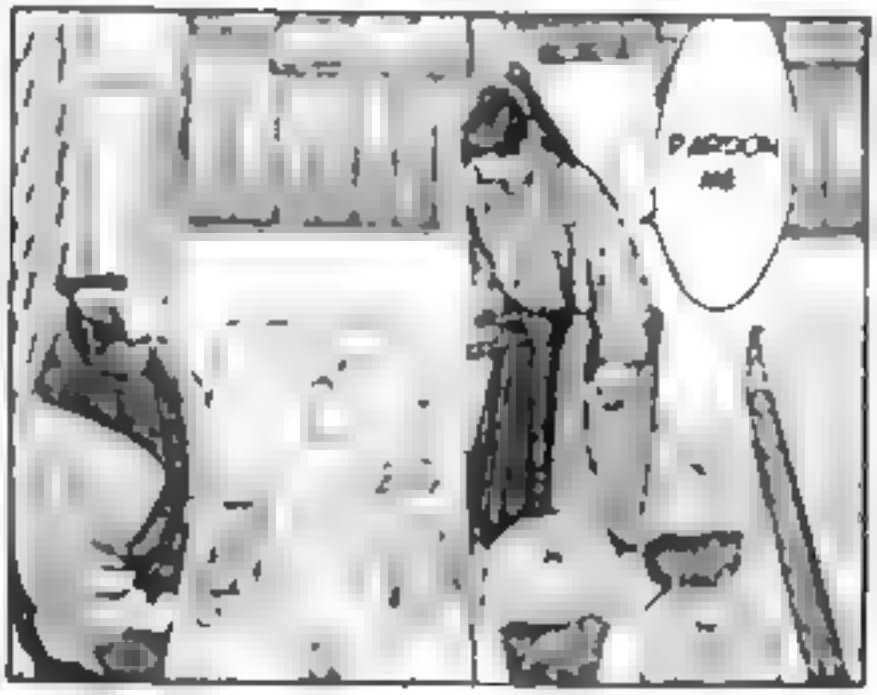


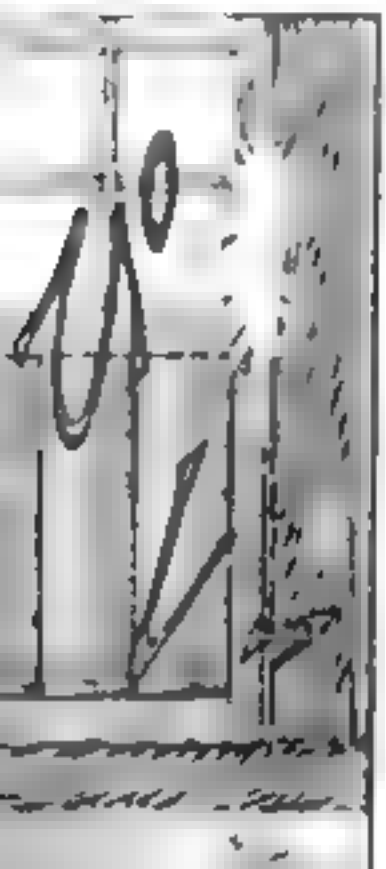
THE DAY
THESE EVENTS
HAPPEN TO
REACH
SENSEI'S
EARS



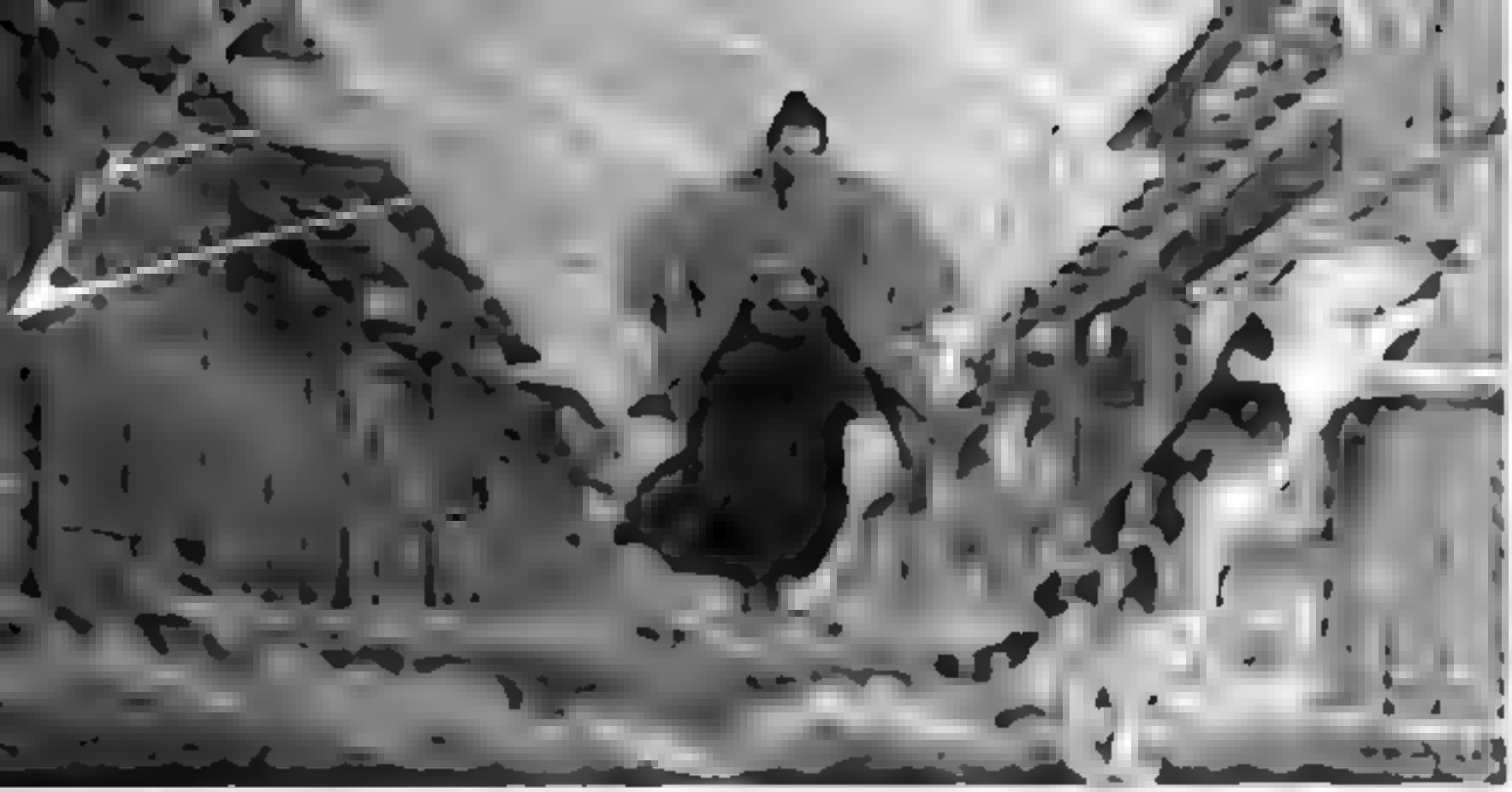

FROM NOW ON I WILL NEVER VISIT THE MISTRESS AGAIN
I UNDERSTAND

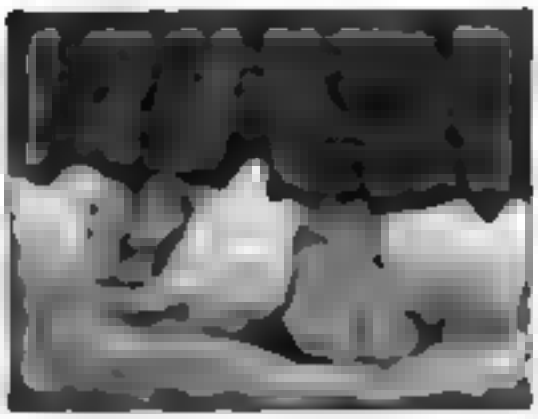



PARDON ME



ORDERS IT





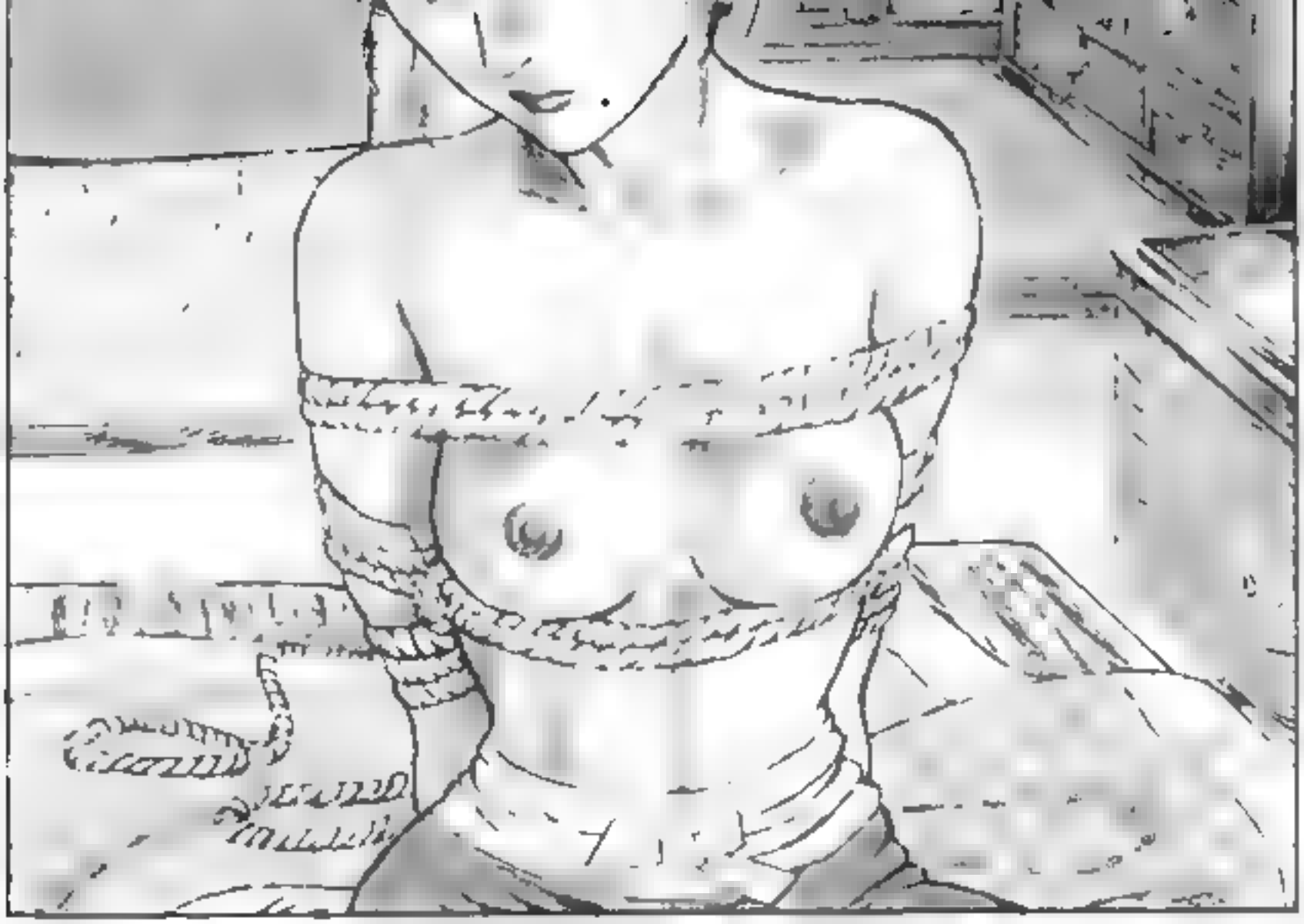
THAT YOU WOULD NOT VISIT ANY MORE?

DID YOU NOT PLEDGE ...

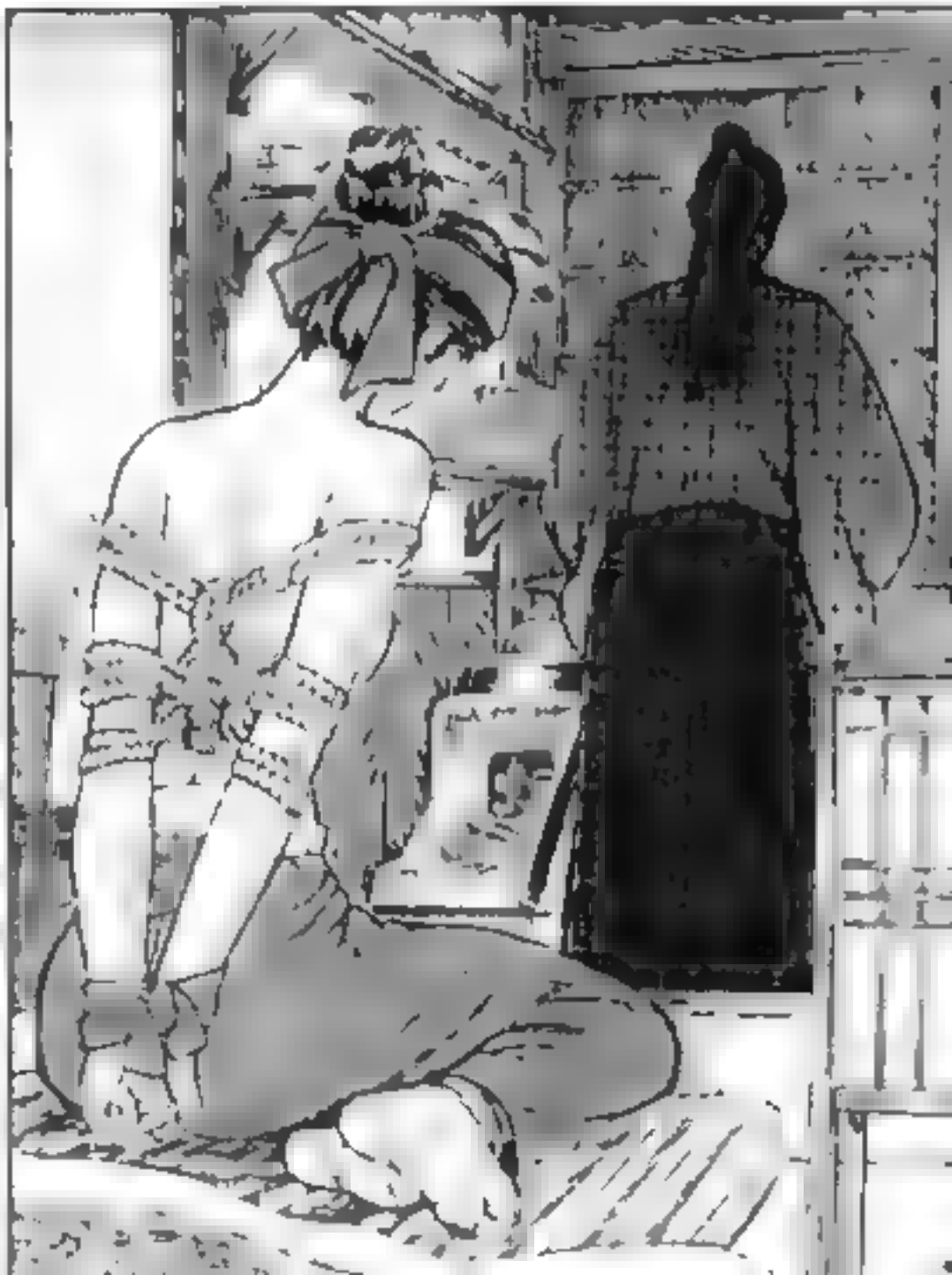
YOU CANNOT ENTER.

IF MY MASTER SHOULD COME TO LEARN OF THIS

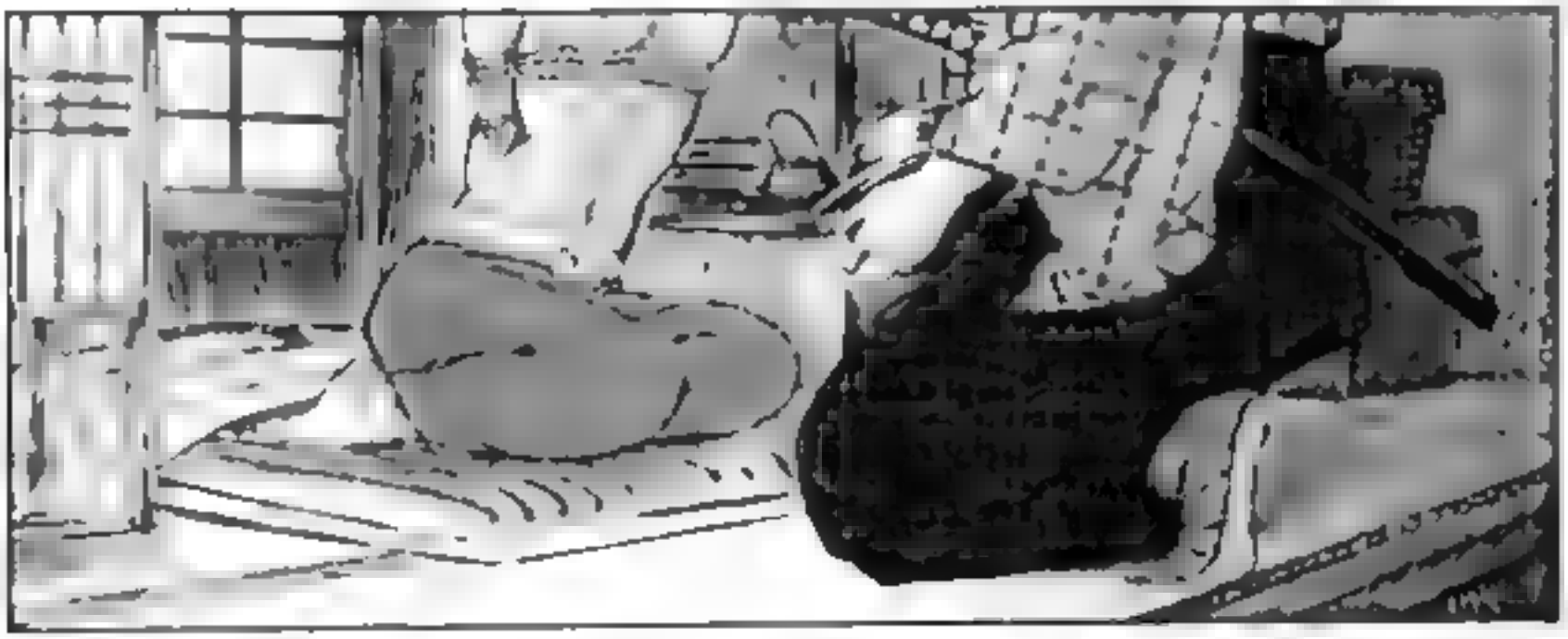
IKU
...

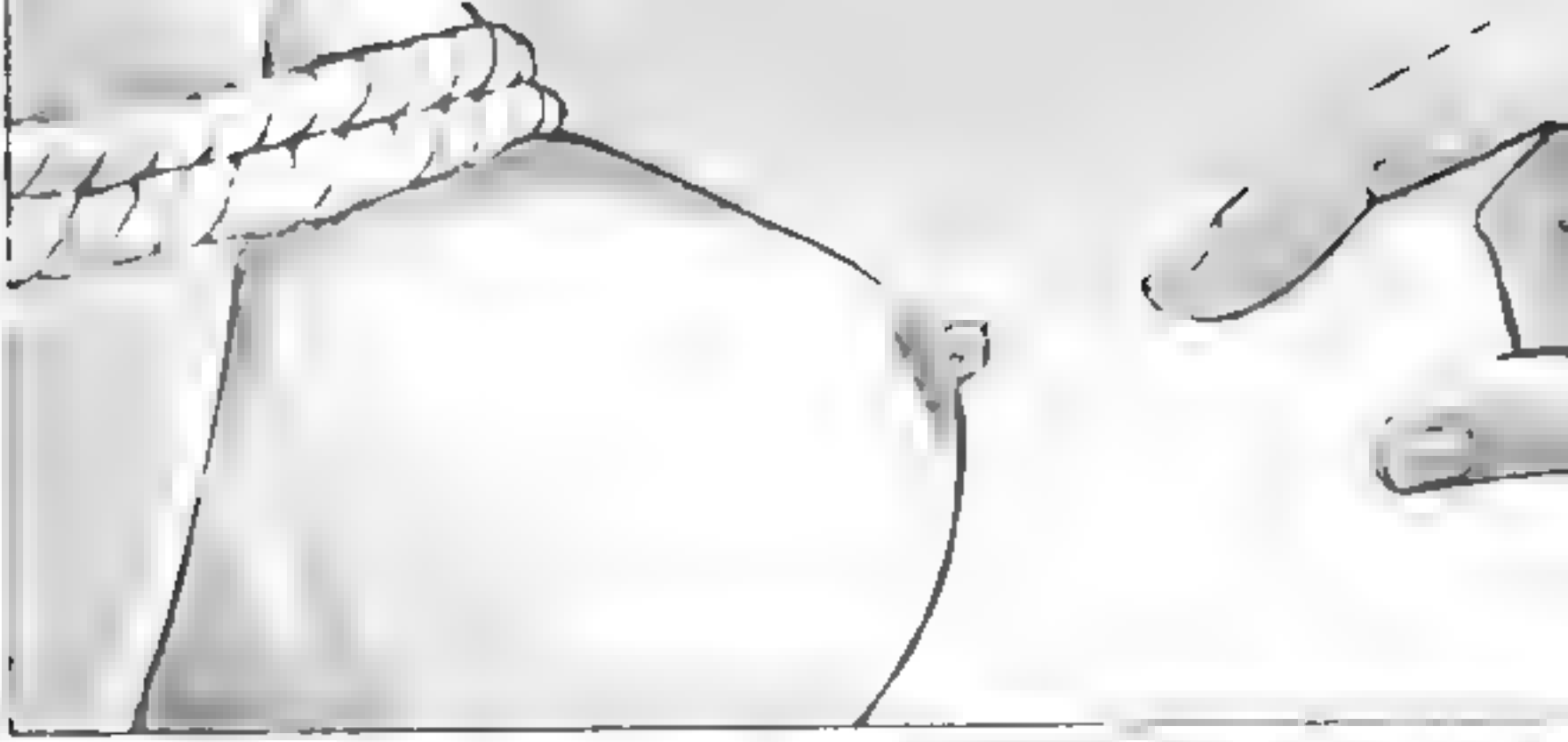


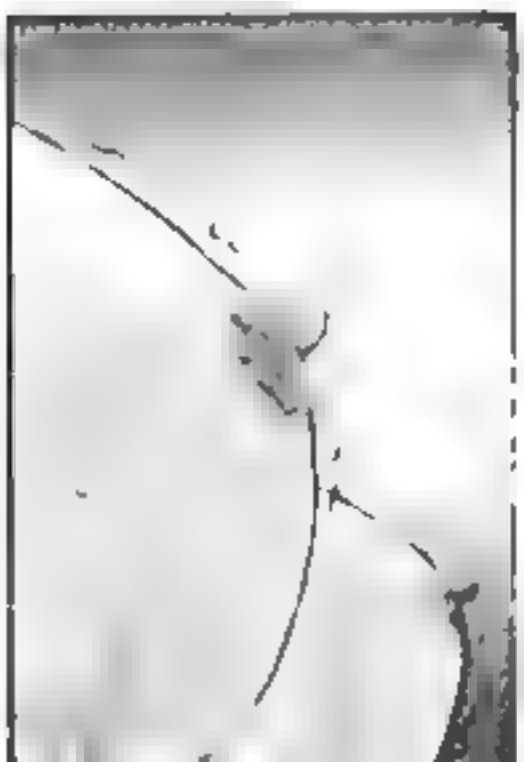
IRAKO-
SAMA,
WHAT
KIND OF
PUNISHMENT
IS THIS?



I SHALL DO NOTHING UNTOWARD TO YOU.
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR

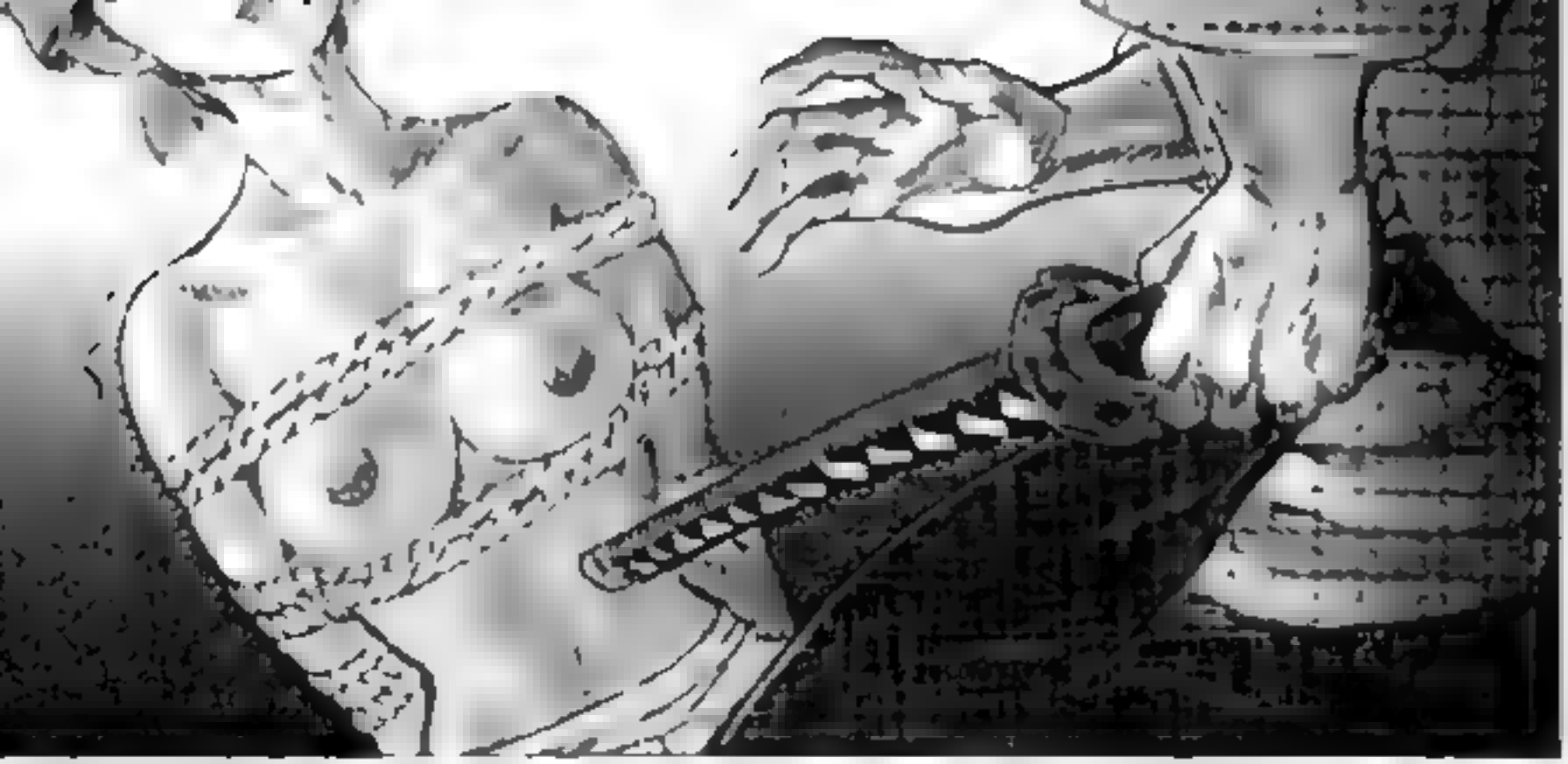


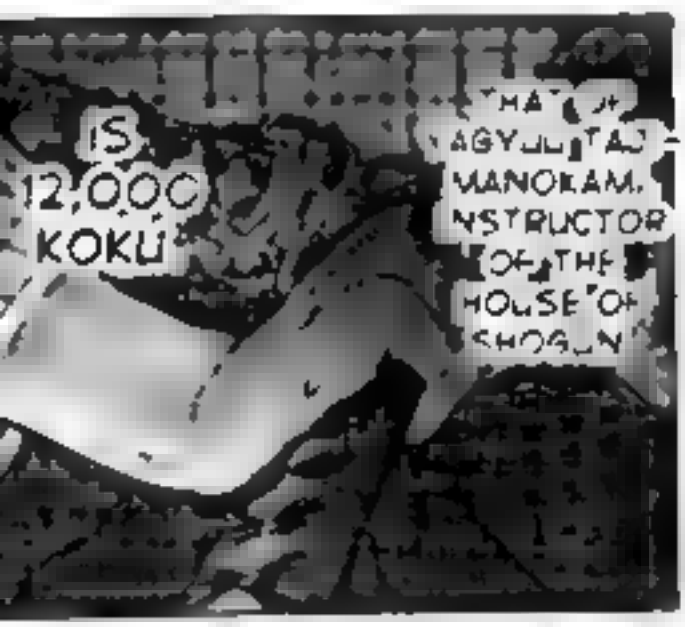


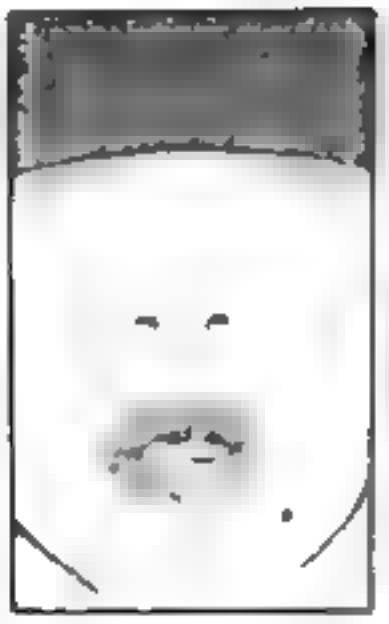


THE STIPEND
OF KAREGAWA
CASTLE S
MARTIAL ARTS
MASTER IS
ROKU

IRAKO-
SAMA
WHY
ARE
YOU




IS
12,000
KOKU
THAT OF
NAGYU TAJ
MANOKAM.
NSTRUCTOR
OF THE
HOUSE OF
SHOGUN



THAT OF TAMYA
TSUSHIMA
NOKAMI BLADE
MASTER OF
SURUGA CASTLE
IS 800 KOKU

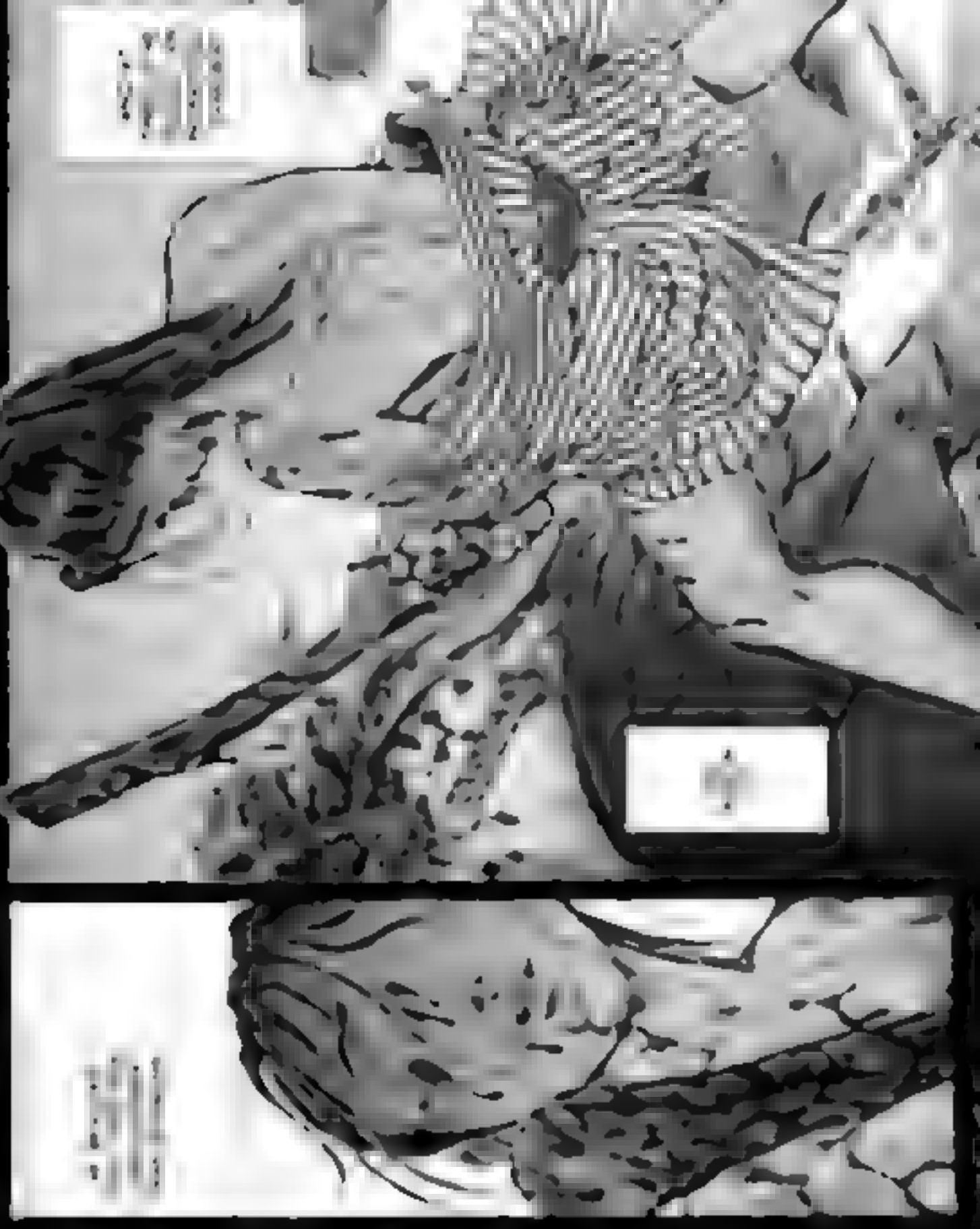
WILL
MY
BLADE
RISE
HOW
HIGH,,

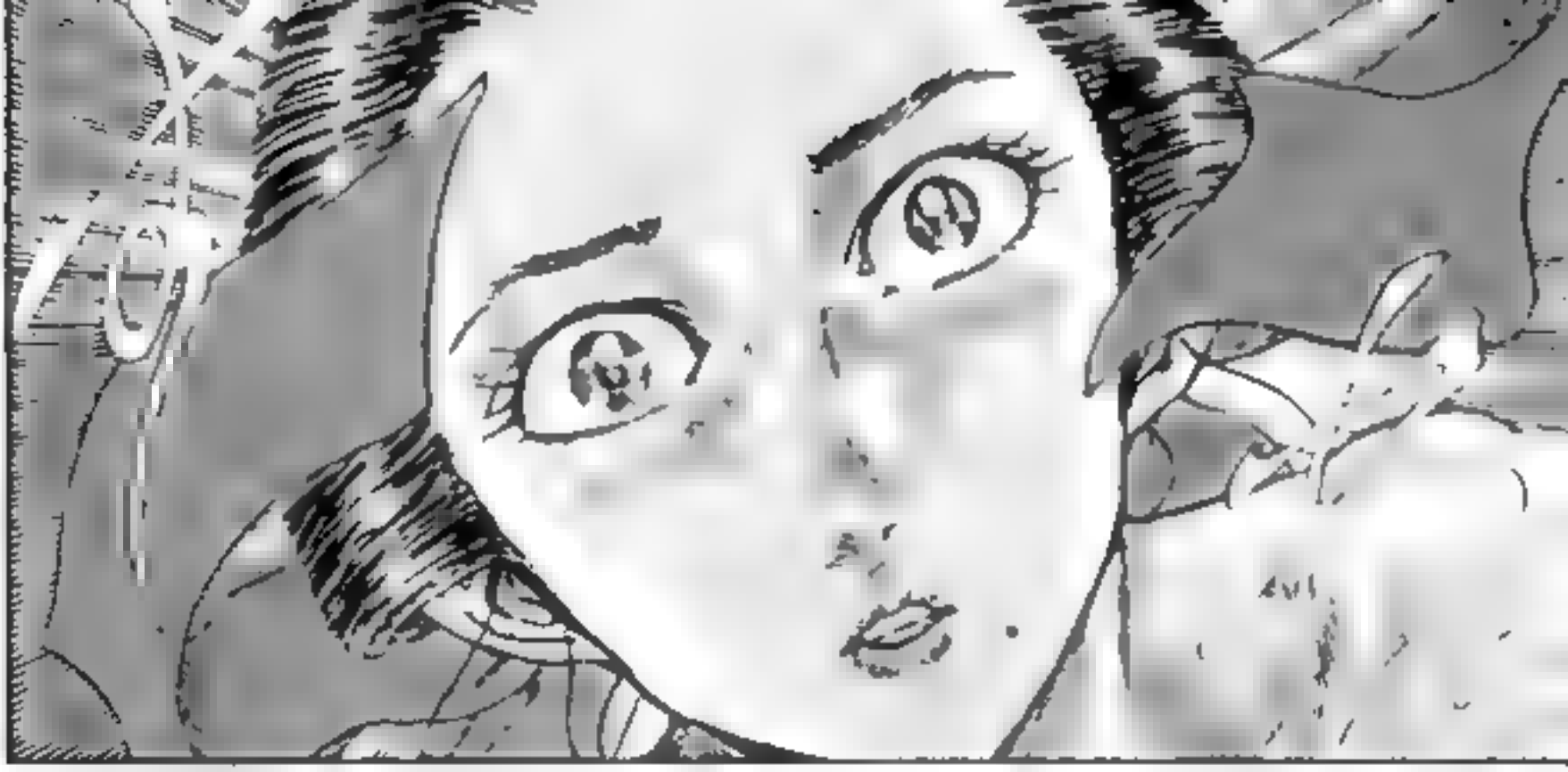
IN THE SLUMS NEAR SAKAGAWA'S BANKS, THERE LIVED A PROSTITUTE NAMED YOU.

AND THE BABY SHOWED NO

BEGAN CRAWLING ON HIS HANDS AND KNEES THE DAY HE WAS BORN, LIKE THE CUB OF A BEAST.

THE INFANT WHO WAS BORN HALF A YEAR LATER...

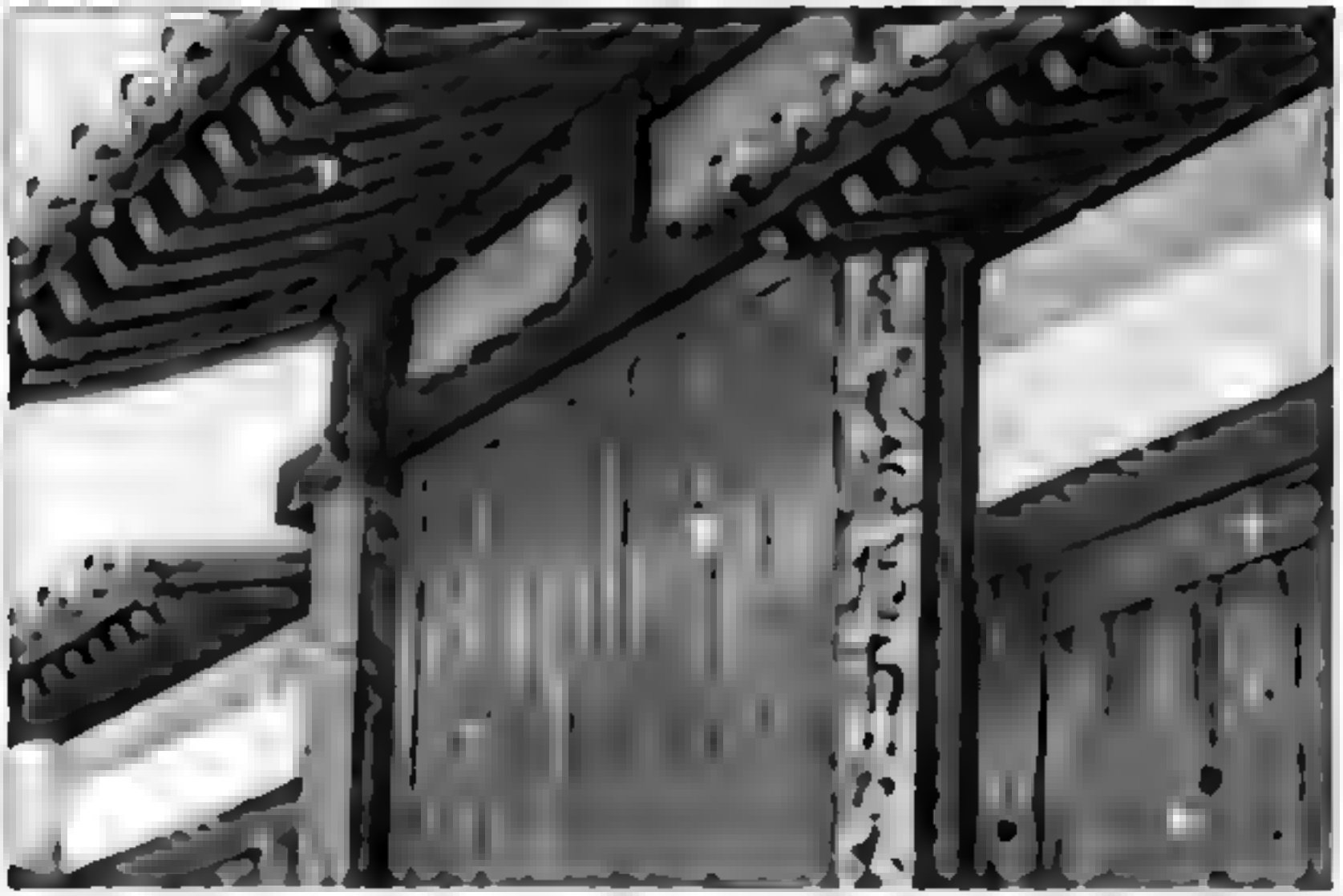


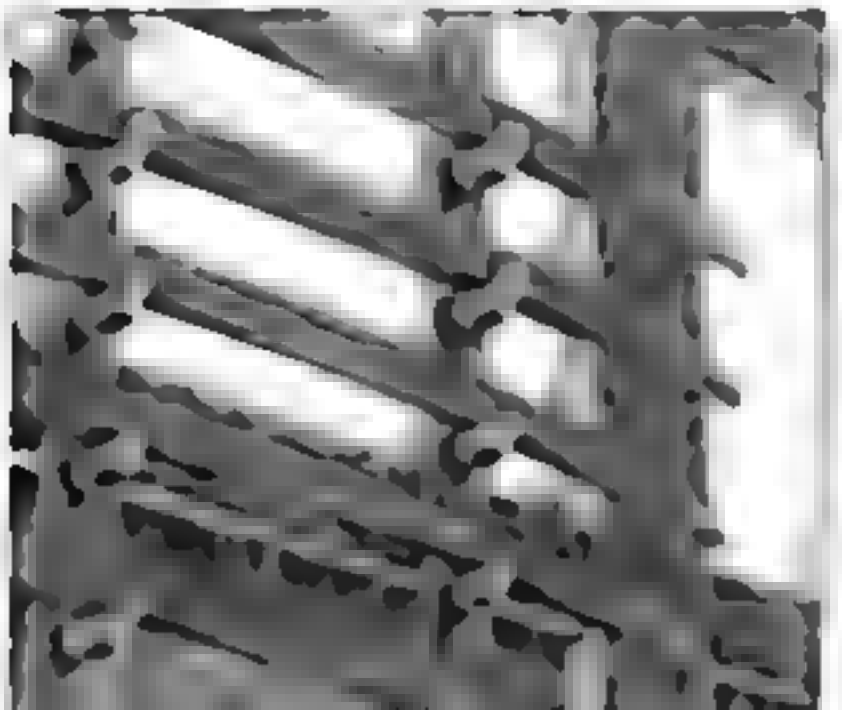


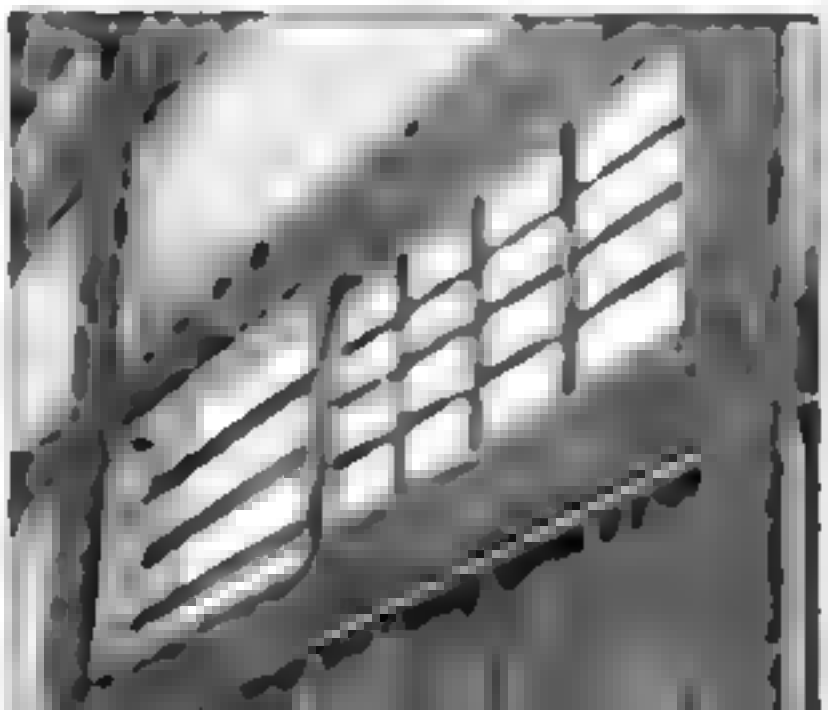
LESS THAN TWO YEARS AFTER HE BECAME A DISCIPLE

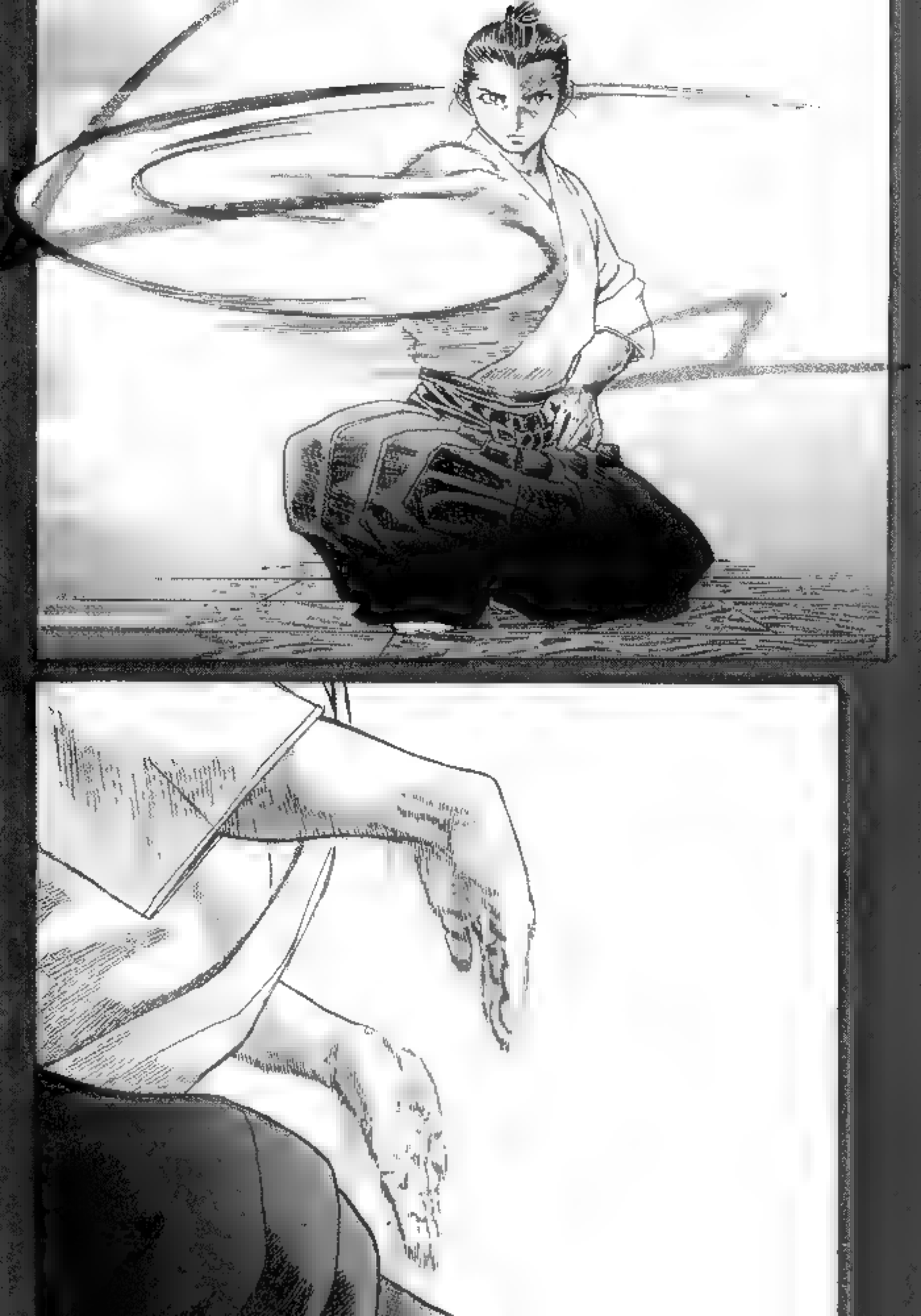
THE SON OF A WHORE HAD MADE KOGAN-BYJU INTO HIS OWN

KAN'EI, FIRST YEAR
DECEMBER



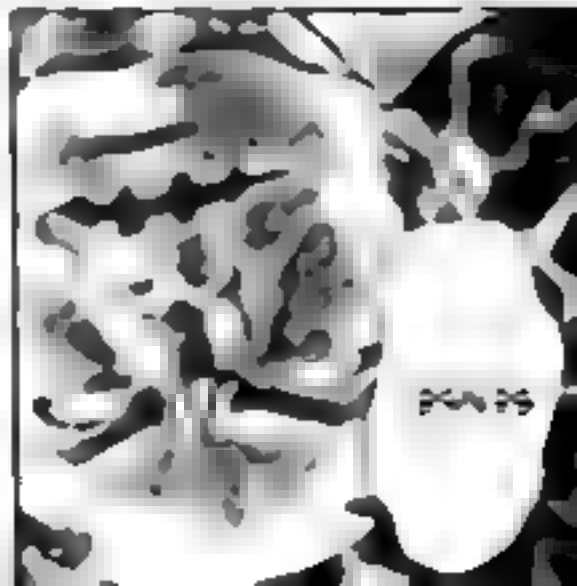


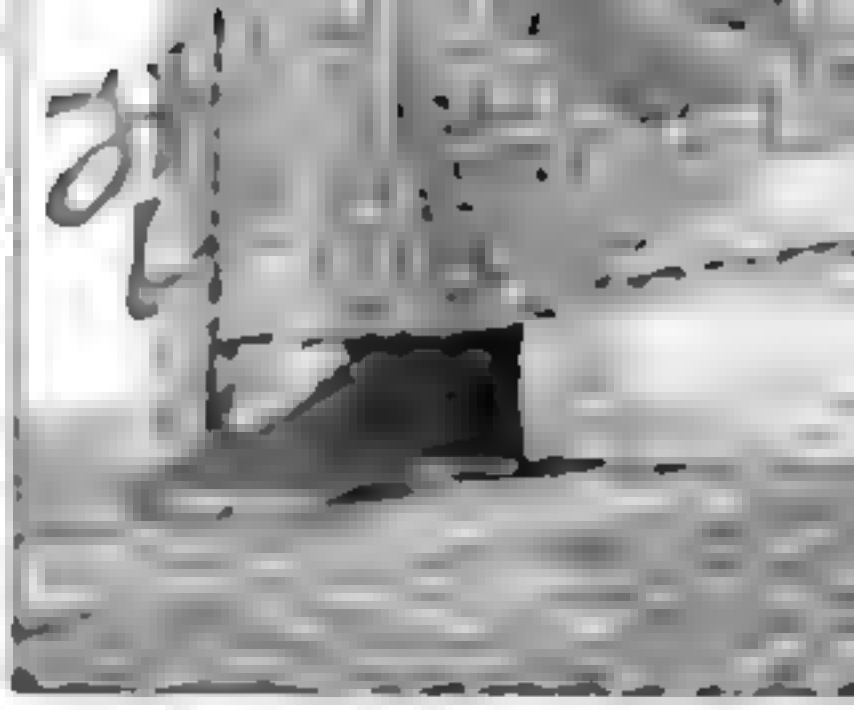




悟空大著膽
迷石穴

THE FEAT OF
CAPTURING

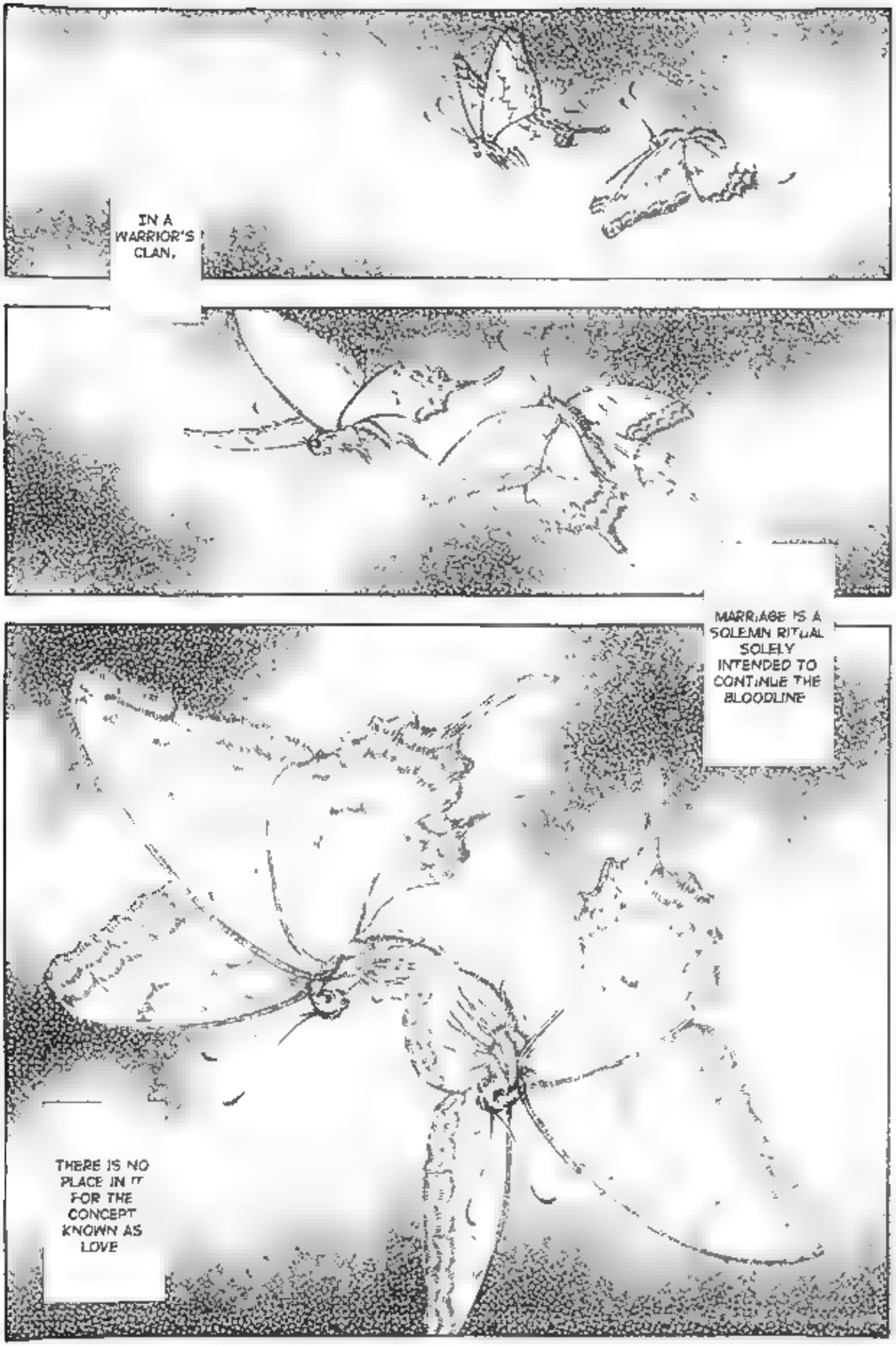




SEED
...

SE.

pter Nine
ippets


IN A WARRIOR'S CLAN,
MARRIAGE IS A SOLEMN RITUAL SOLELY INTENDED TO CONTINUE THE BLOODLINE
THERE IS NO PLACE IN IT FOR THE CONCEPT KNOWN AS LOVE

THE PATRIARCH OF CLAN DECIDES EVERYTHING

Seed.
Se.

SEED
...

I BELIEVE THAT SENSEI

WISHES FOR US TO CONSUMMATE OUR RELATIONSHIP IN THIS PLACE.

CONSUMMATE

I PITY YOU.

* An uchikake: a special kimono designed for brides.

TO THE DAUGHTER OF SUCH A CLAN HER VIRGINITY WAS NOTHING LESS THAN HER PRIDE ITSELF

SOMETHING LIKE A SPOTLESS WHITE UCHIKAKE* HELD INSIDE HER HEART

AND WHO
ELSE BUT
HER OWN
FATHER

MIE-DONO!

IT'S NOTHING

MY FATHER IS MERELY

MORE UNWELL THAN EVER TODAY

FOR THE REST OF YOU TO LEAVE THIS PLACE

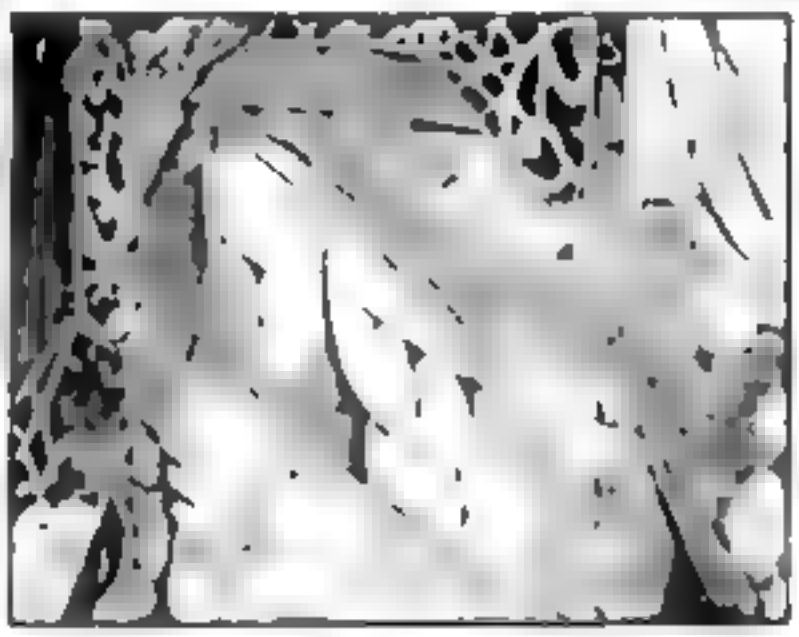
I BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE WISE

U Ushimata Get out of my way

Gon

SENSE HAS CHOSEN IRAKO SEKEN AS

PLEASE, GO BACK.



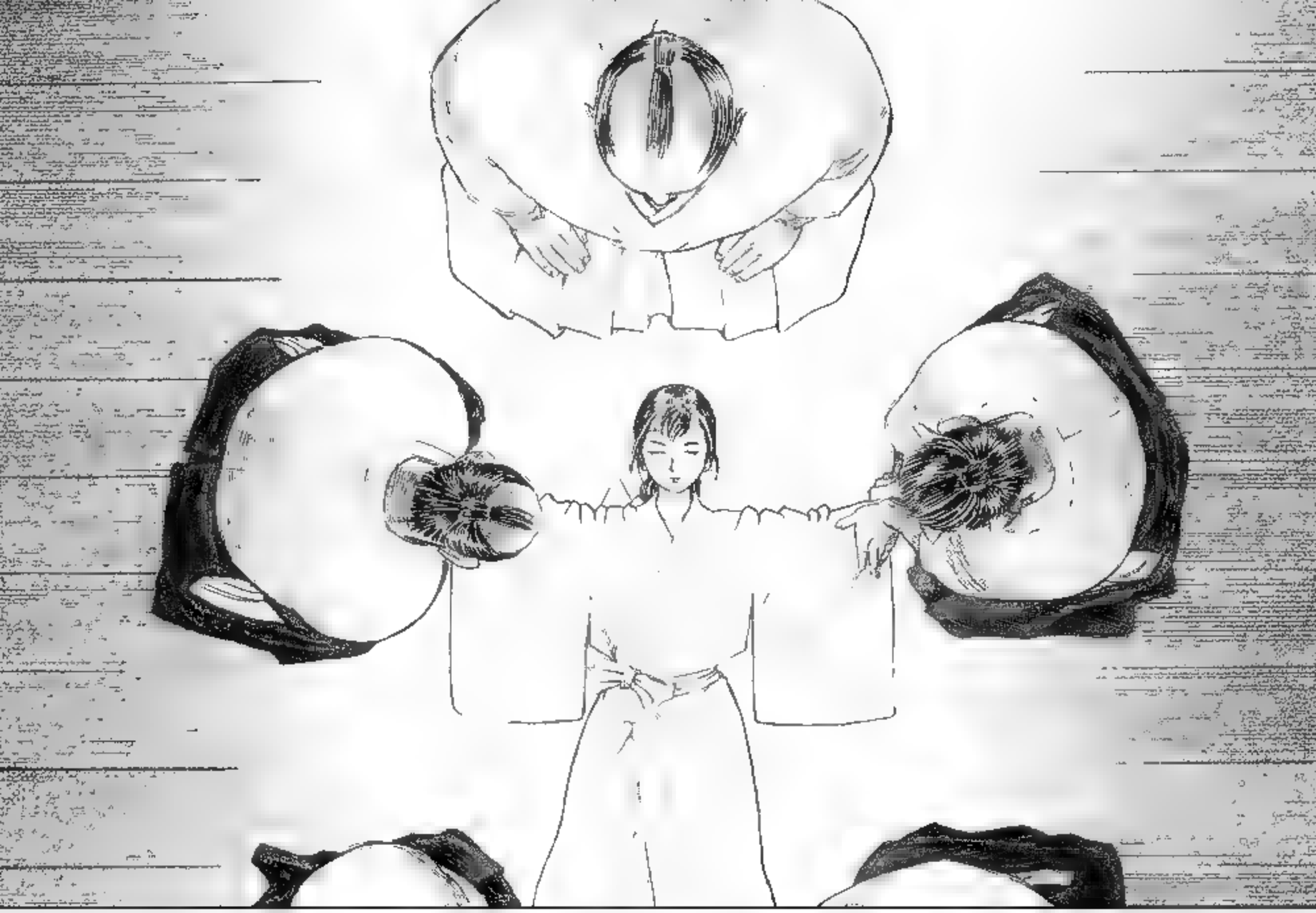
FUJIKI

THE SAME EXPRESSION AS THEN . .

THOUGH THE STENCH OF SCORCHING FLESH FILLED THE ROOM

WHEN MIE WAS TEN, KOBAN HAD MADE THE NEWLY ENTERED FUJIKI GENNOSUKE HOLD A PAIR OF HEATED TONGS

HIS FACE WAS SET IN THE SAME EXPRESSION AS IT HAD BEEN THEN



ALL MEN ARE PUPPETS.

PUPPETS ...

HE IS ONLY A TOOL TO BEAR CHILDREN

AND THE HER OFFSPRING WILL BE MONSTROSITIES

FORGIVE ME.

ABE-DONO WILL SURELY TAKE HER OWN LIFE
IF I PLEDGE YOUR MY DUTIES AT THIS TIME

IN THAT CASE THE LINE OF THIS HOUSE WILL BE SEVERED

THEREFORE I RESPECTFULLY SUGGEST THAT THIS RITUAL BE HELD

AFTER THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY, FOR THE GOOD OF BOTH KOGAN-RYUU AND MIE-DONO.

He's been born!

H-He's been

THAT NIGHT

AFTER THE ANNUAL CLEANING OF THE DOUJOU, GENNOSUKE LEAVES THE PREMISES AT TWO THIRTY IN THE MORNING

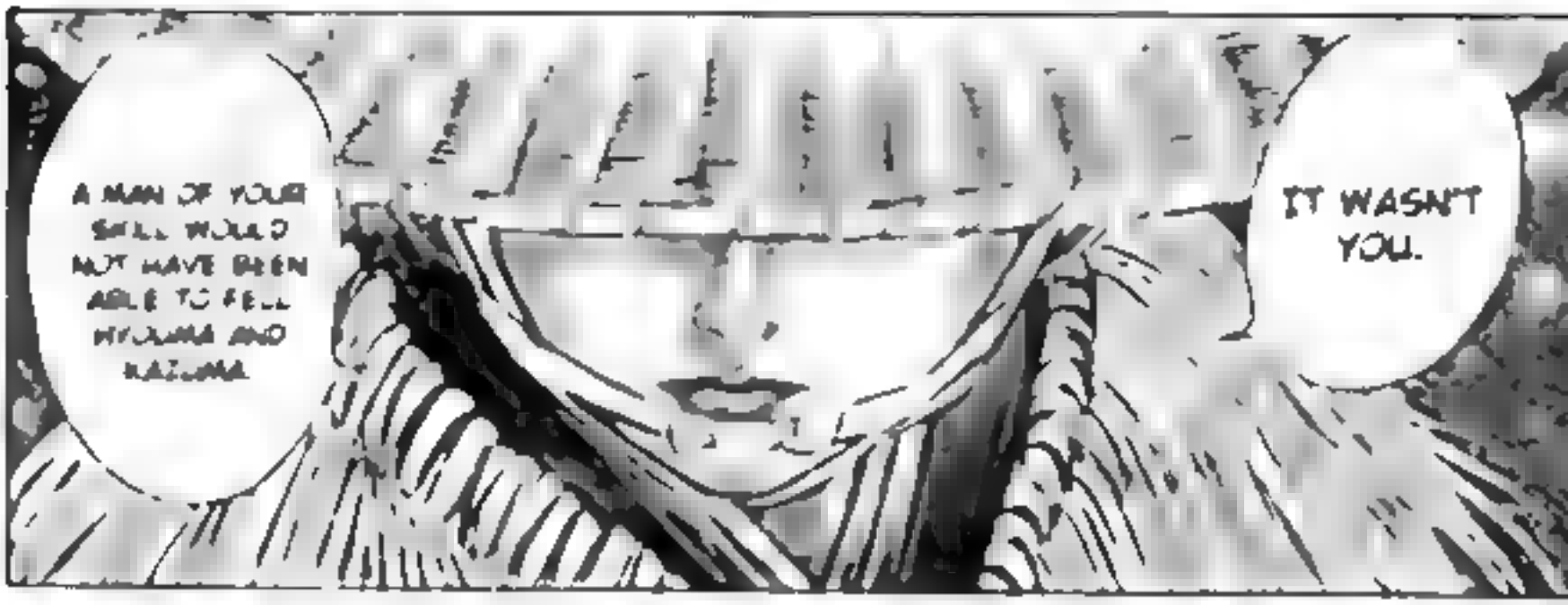
THE NERVES

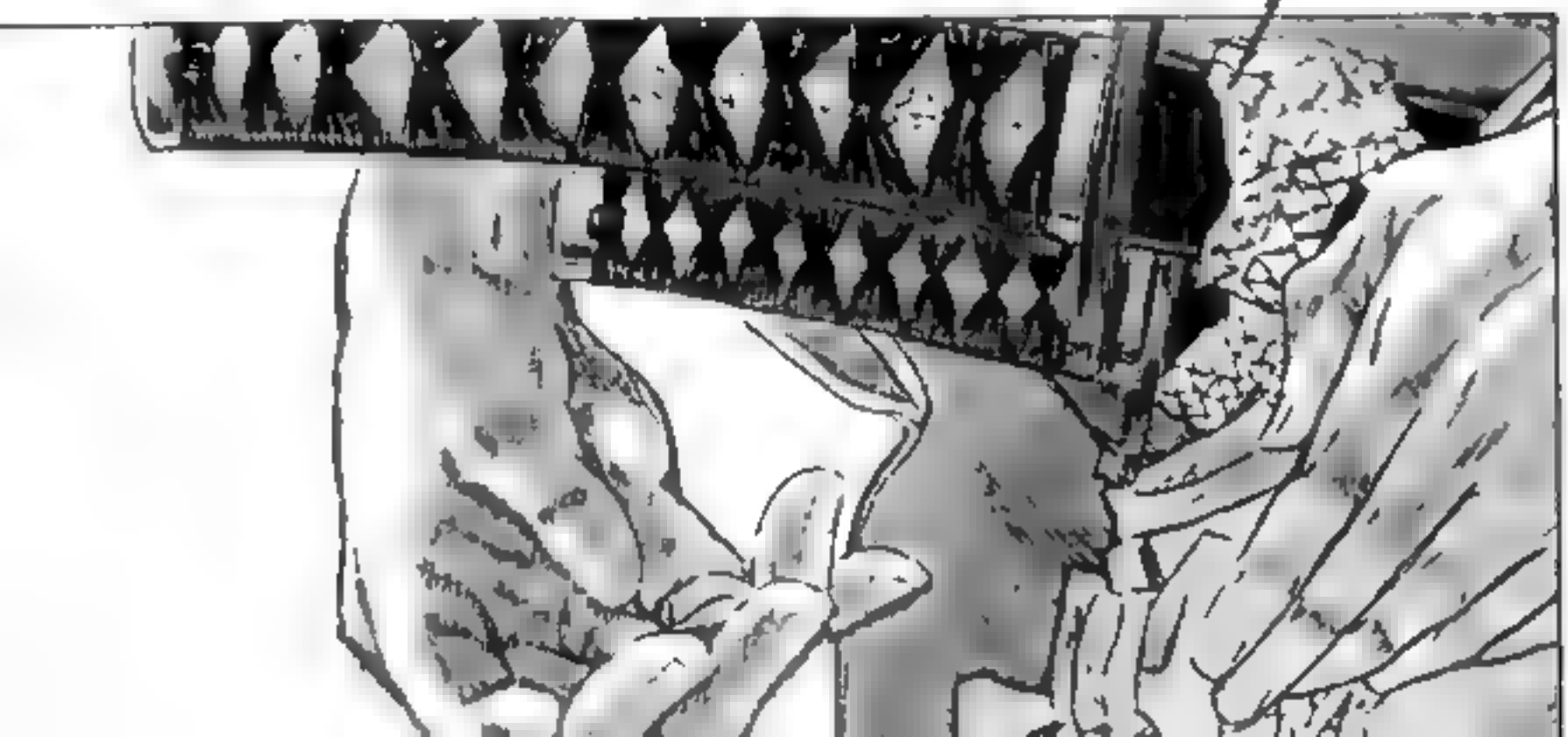
SENSEI

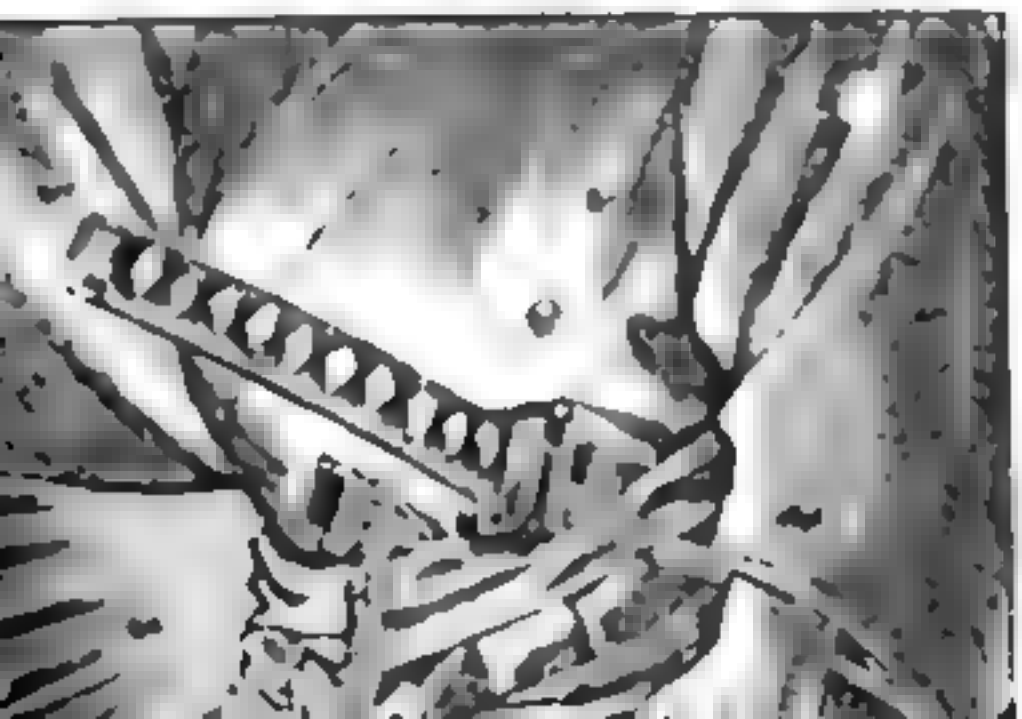
A RIGHT HAND SUBSEQUENTLY HEATED IN THE PORTABLE HOT STONE

THE VICTOR OF SUCH A BATTLE IS AS GOOD AS DECIDED

AND A RIGHT HAND [illegible] IN THE COLD


A MAN OF YOUR SKILL WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FELL HYUUMA AND KAZUMA
IT WASN'T YOU.



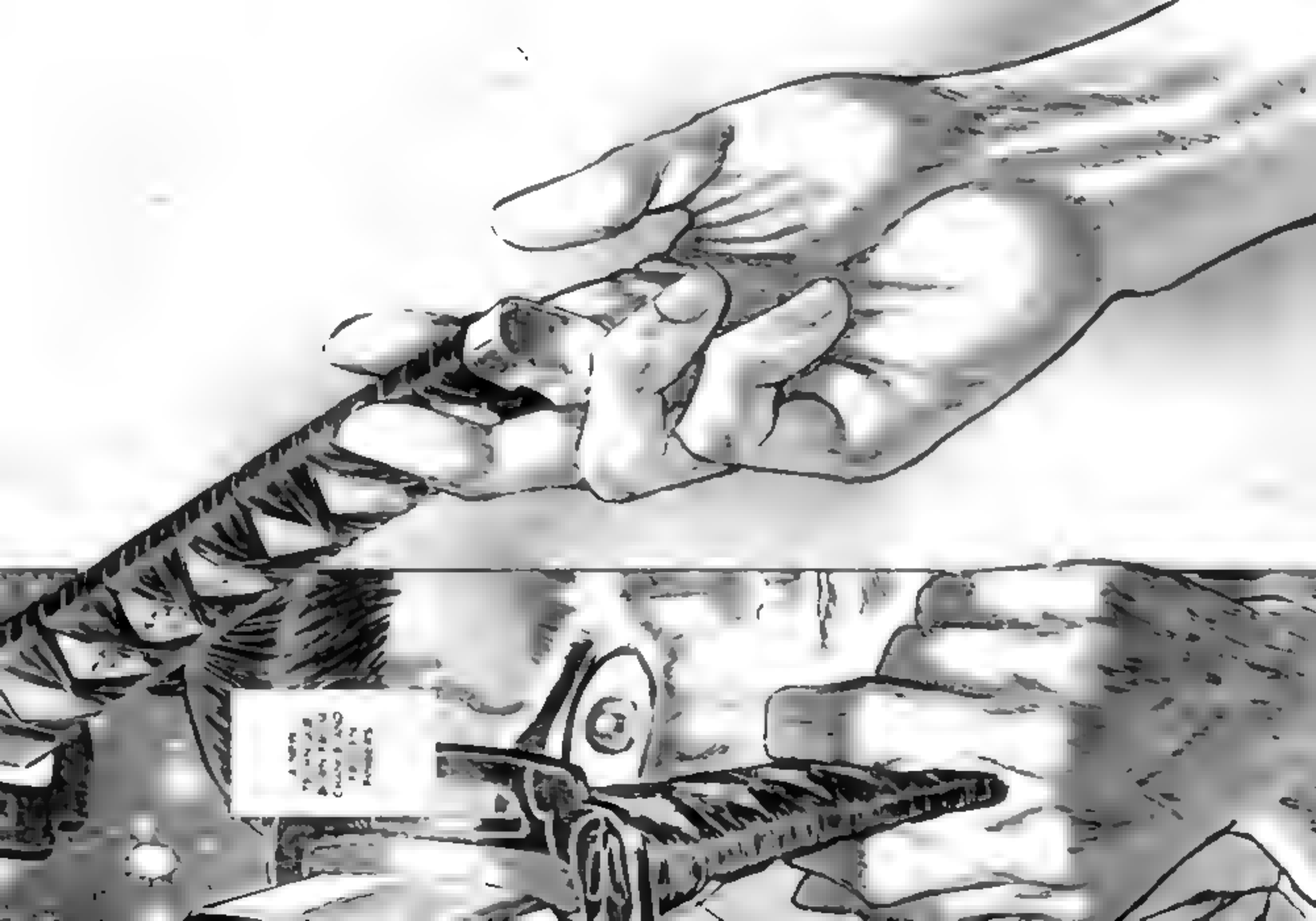


HE WAS TOO FAST!

TS ACRITY WAS SOMETHING THAT EVEN GENNOSUKE HIMSELF COULD NOT HAVE MAG'NED

HAD BEEN NEARLY GODLIKE IN ITS SPEED.

THOUGH THE STRIKE OF GEN-NOSUKE'S WAKIZASHI



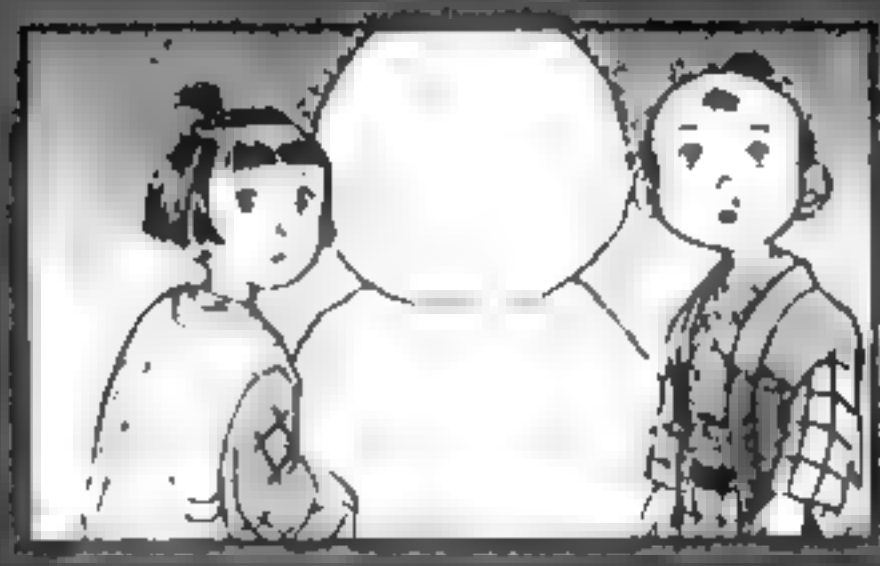
THIS TECHNIQUE WAS THE BASIS

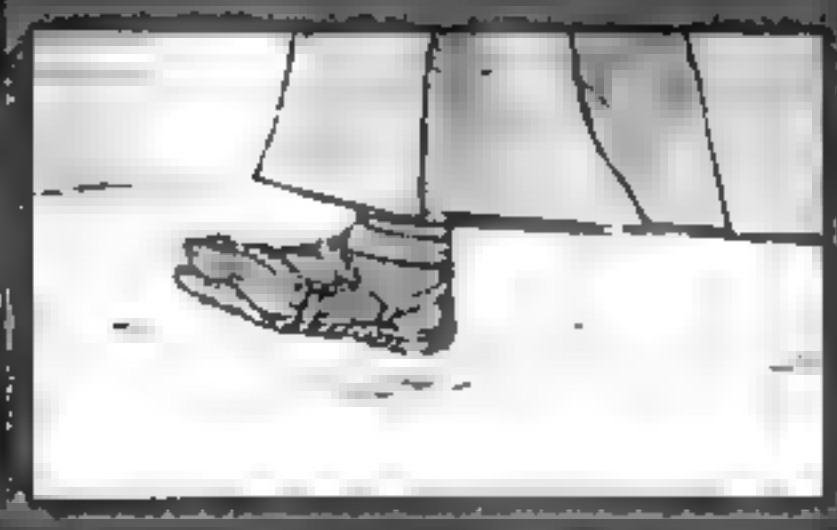
OF KOGAN-RYUU'S SECRET ART, "NAGARE BOSHI." (FALLING STAR)

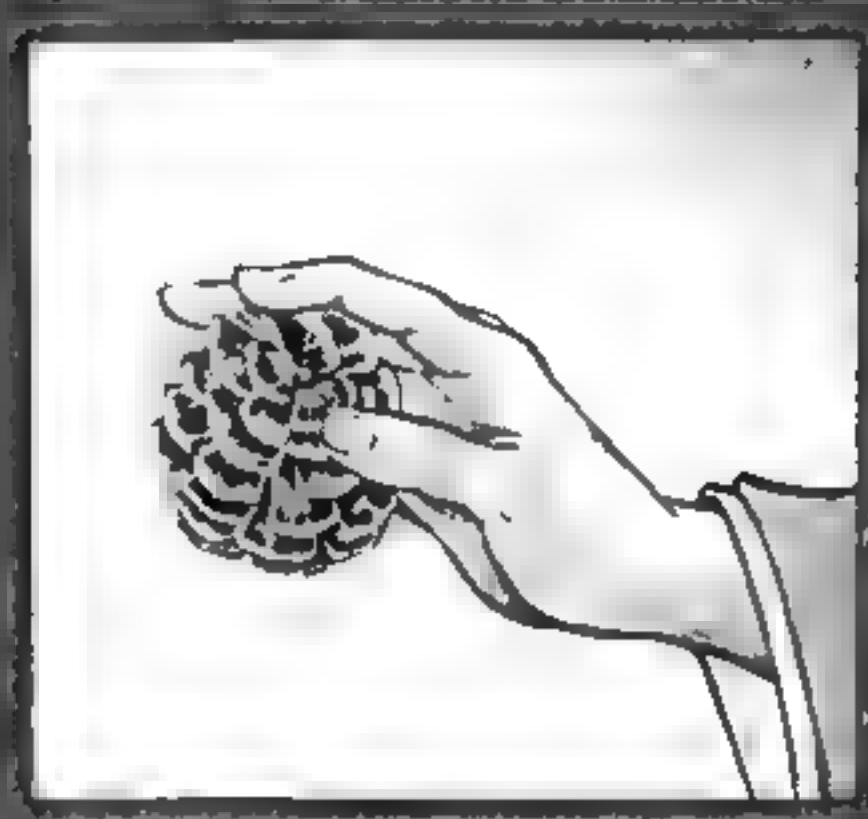
THE BLADE HAD

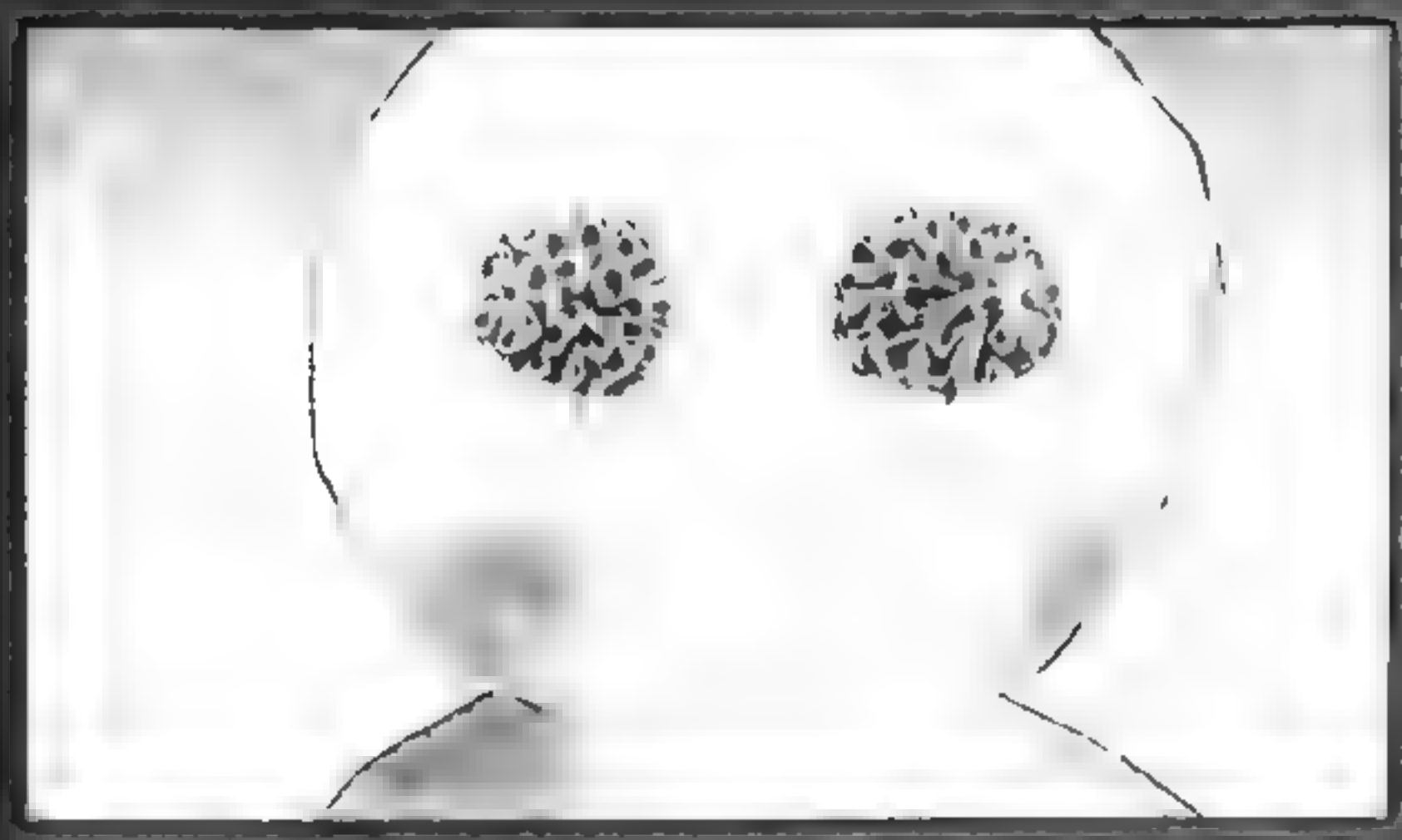
Chapter-ten
Hairpin

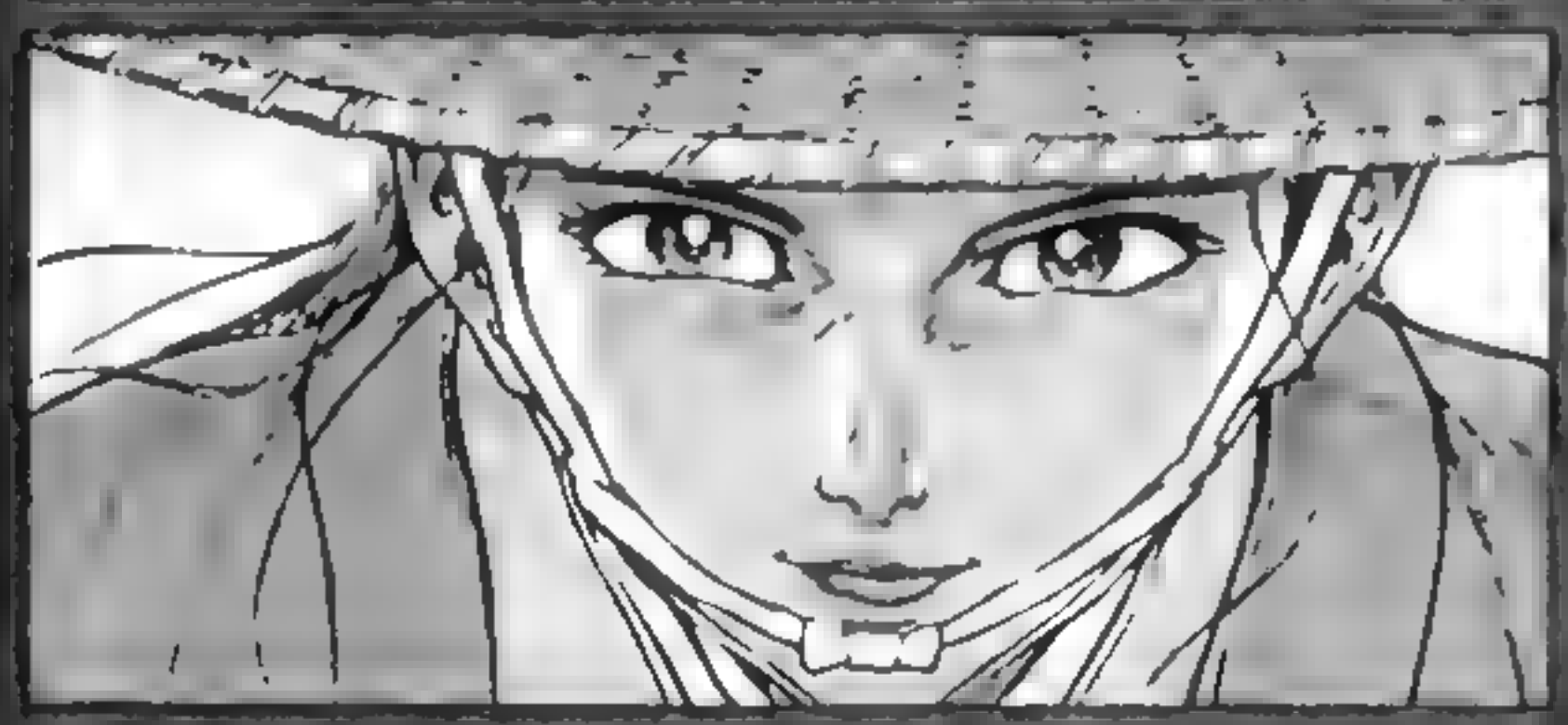
Kan'ei First Year
December 30th

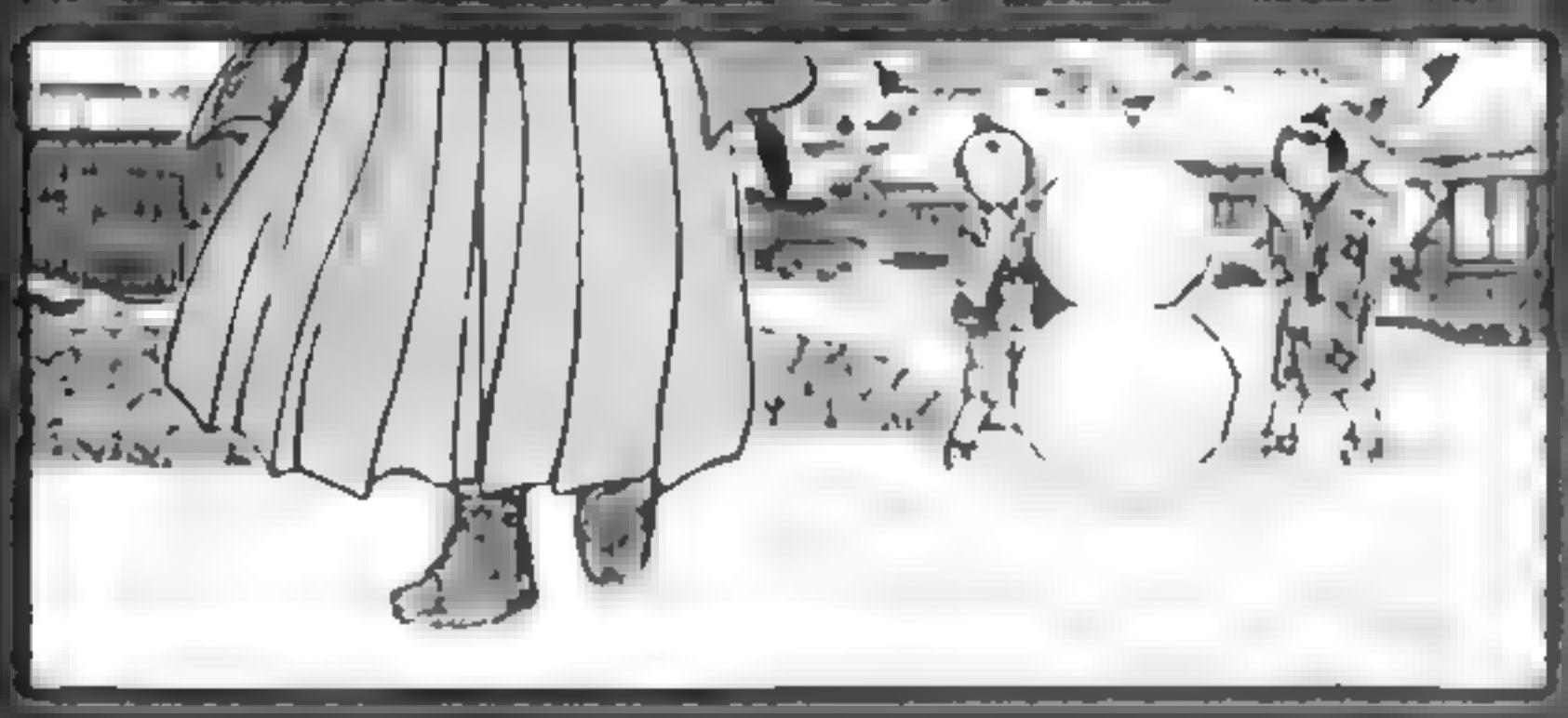






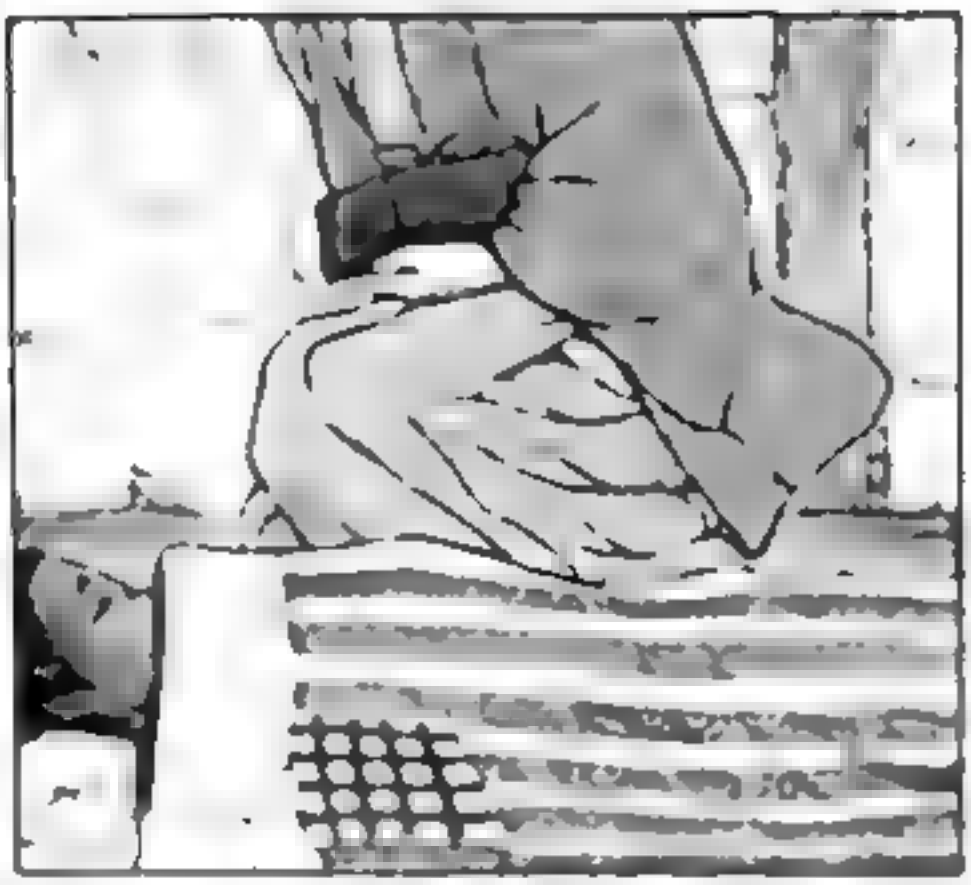






THE SLUMS CROWDED ON THE BANKS OF SAKAGAWA.

THE FESTIVE AIR OF NEW YEAR'S CELEBRA-TION DID NOT REACH THIS PLACE.



MOTHER

Welcome, sir.

Wel,

THIS IS MOCHI, MOTHER.

YOU! ONCE SAID YOU WANTED TO EAT IT MORE THAN ANYTHING

Ah ...

STARTING SEVEN YEARS AGO YOU BEGAN TO SHOW SIGNS OF MENTAL INSTABILITY.

AND, NOW, CANNOT EVEN TELL HER OWN SON APART FROM A CUSTOMER.

SOON, I WILL BECOME HEIR TO A STIPEND OF 300 KOKU.

はぁ

ぉ

AND THAT ALSO MEANS FAREWELL TO THIS HORRIBLE HOUSE

FROM THIS DAY FORTH, THE HOUSE OF SEIGEN

WILL BECOME SAMURAI

KAKEGAWA
HOUSE OF
IWAMOTO.
KOGAN

SINCE THE CLAN OF A WARRIOR CELEBRATED THE COMING OF THE NEW YEAR WITH TOSOJU A SPIRITS SAID TO PROMOTE LONG LIFE.

THE MISTRESS IKU, WAS ALSO STAYING AT KOGAN'S RESIDENCE

NO, NOT TWO, NOW ...

THESE REPULSIVE FINGERS HAVE TAKEN FROM ME TWO PEOPLE I HELD DEAR.

IRAKO-SAMA ...

IRAKO-SAMA, AS WELL!

AND SO TONIGHT SHALL HAVE TO BE OUR LAST MEETING."

IN THAT CASE, YOU WILL BECOME MY MOTHER-IN-LAW,

IT SEEMS THAT I SHALL BECOME HUSBAND TO MIE-DONO,

HEIRESS TO KOGAN-RYUU.

NO!

I WANT TO STAY FOREVER A WOMAN IN IRAKO-SAMA'S EYES.

I CAN'T LET HIM GO!

NOT IRAKO-SAMA ...

...

AH
...

MASTER. YOU HAVE AWOKEN FROM YOUR SLEEP

IN MY DREAMS,

I WAS BITTEN BY A MOSQUITO.

I'M NOT COLD.

ALLOW ME TO BRING A CHANGE OF CLOTH

THE WEATHER IS COLD.

IKU.

YES?

A SWORDSMAN CAN TELL JUST BY LOOKING AT HIS SWORD.

AS THIS IS MY TOOL

APPROXIMATELY HOW MANY PEOPLE

THAT BLADE HAS KILLED AND IN WHAT MANNER

FUJIKI

YOU HAVE DONE VERY WELL,

..AND I CAN SEE EXACTLY WHO HAS BEEN TAKING CARE OF IT.

WHILE I WAS SLUMBER-ING.

IKU, COME CLOSE.

コト!

And I can see here as well

Since you, too, are merely a tool of mine.

Ugh...

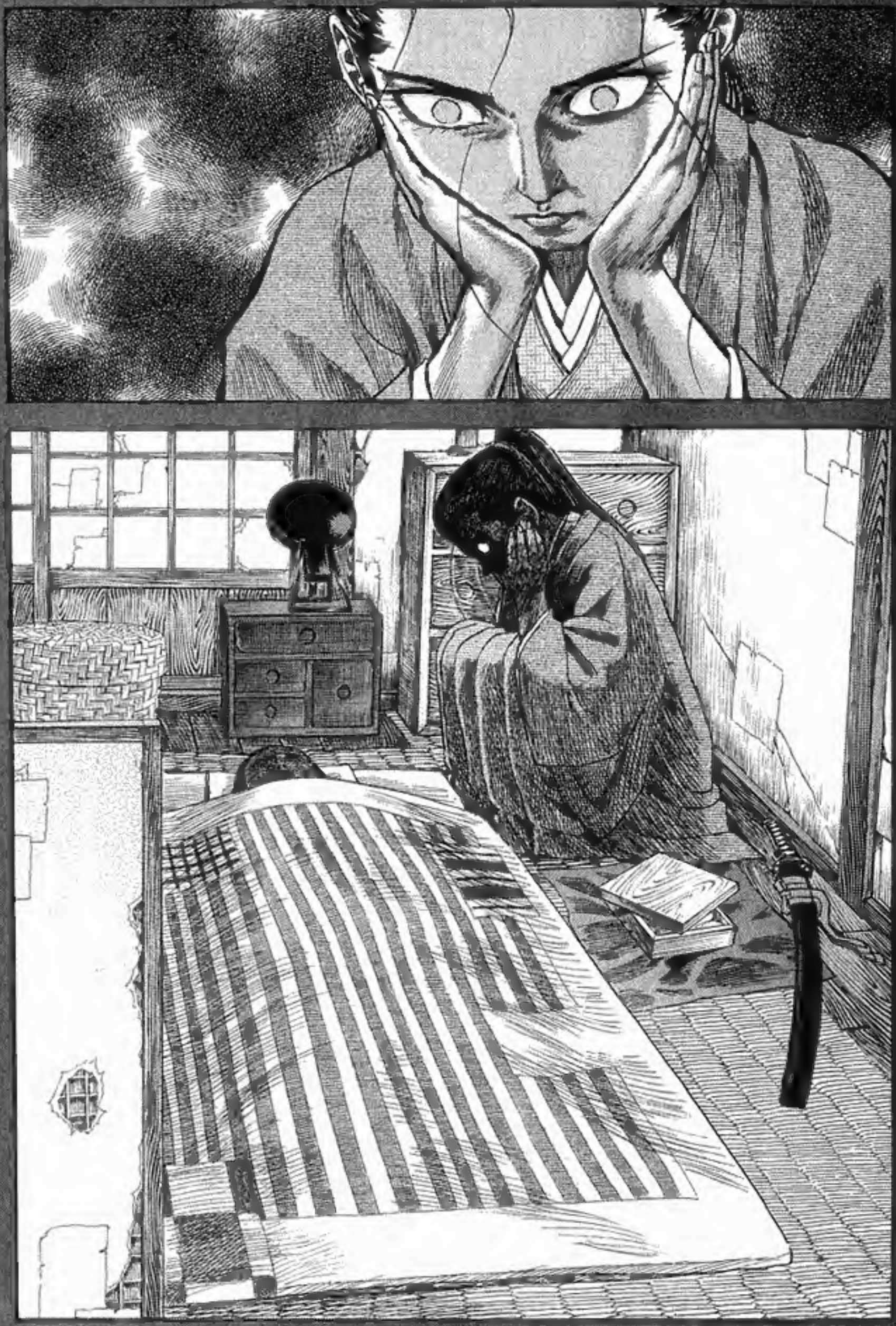
Ahh!!

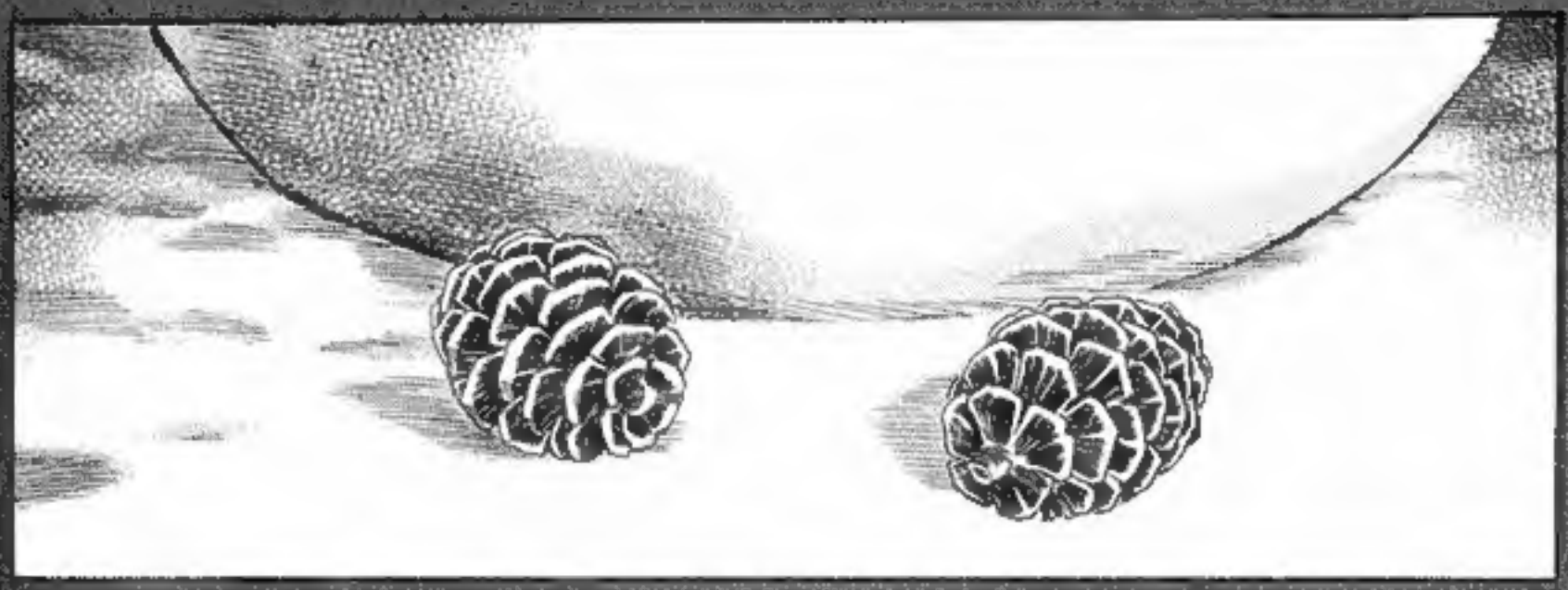
THE ARM OF A GODLIKE SWORDSMAN WHO COULD WEILD A BLADE NEARLY FOUR FEET IN LENGTH,

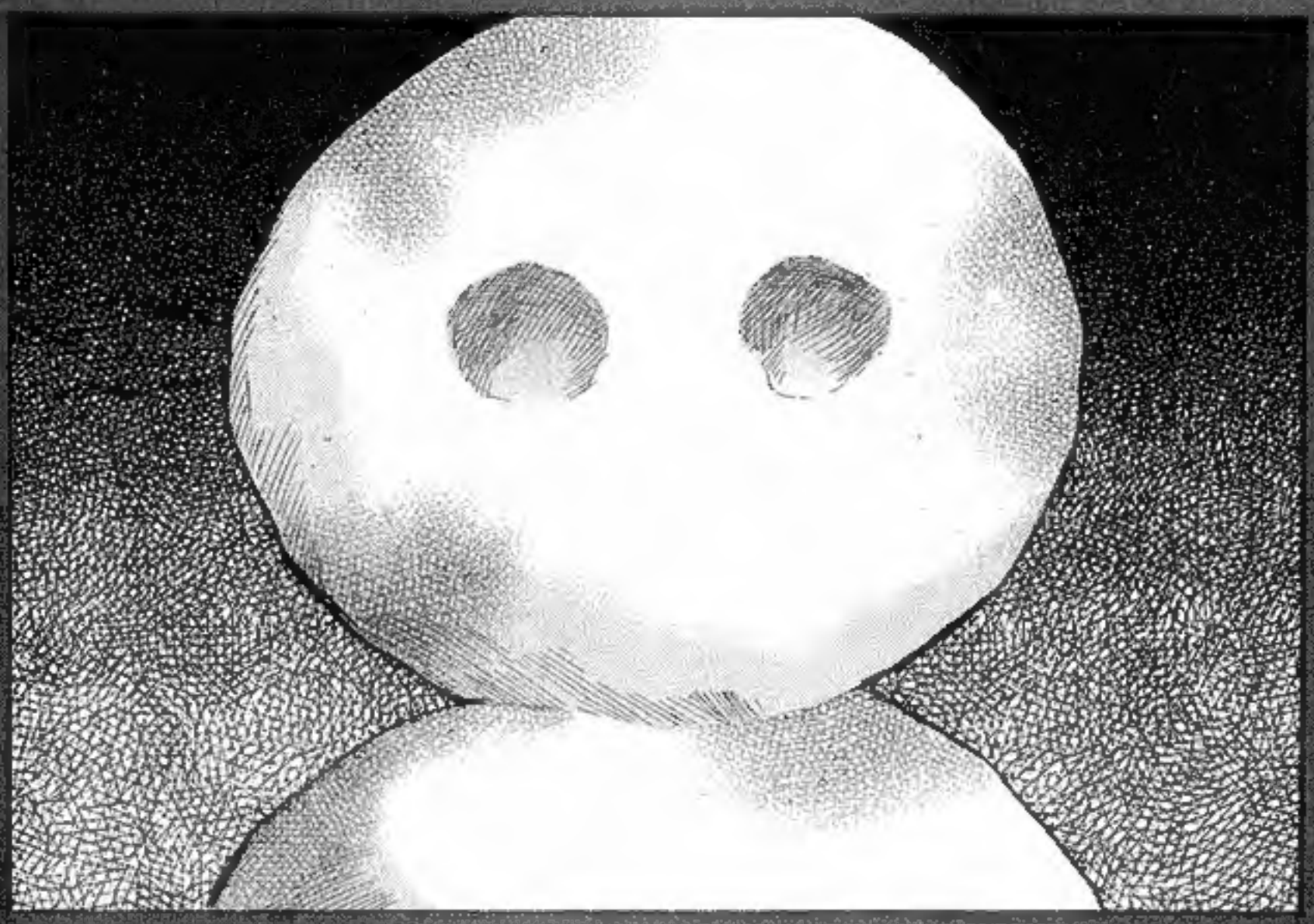
WAS FULLY CAPABLE OF DESTROYING HUMAN FLESH EVEN WITHOUT A SWORD.

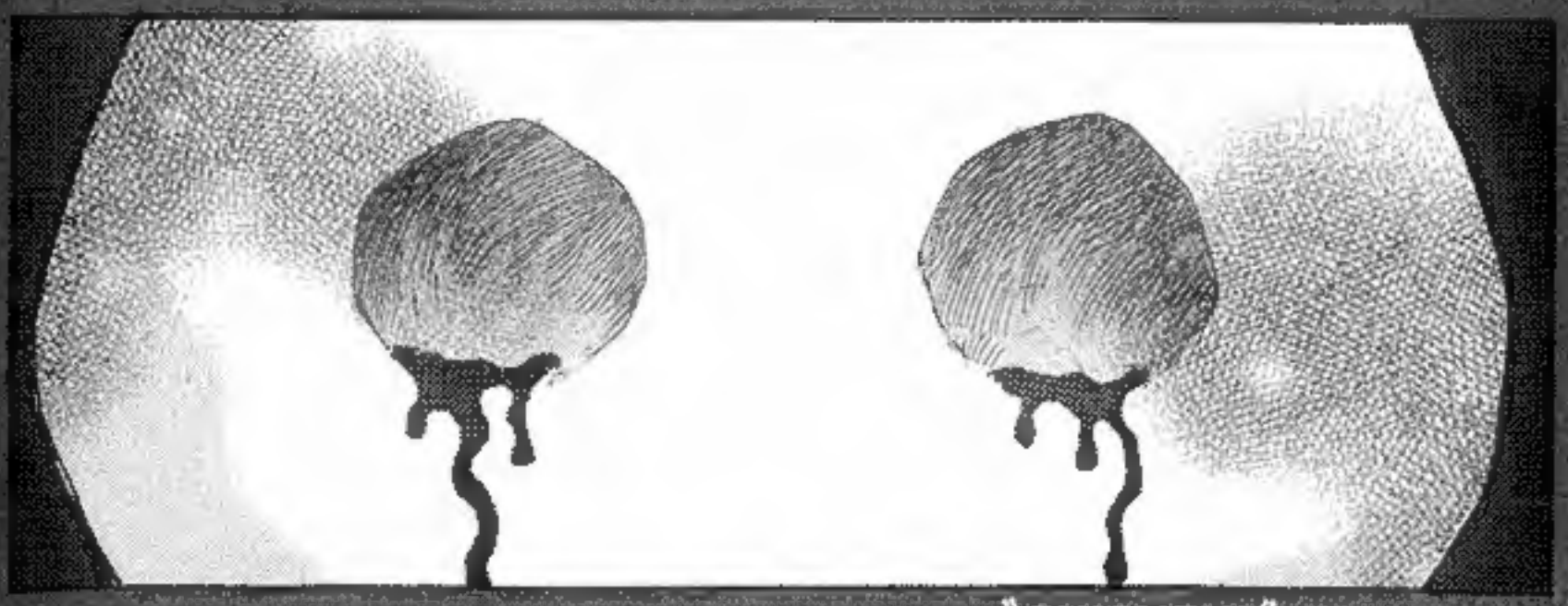
IRAKO !!

HOW DARE YOU ...









"SHIGURUI" Vol.2／END